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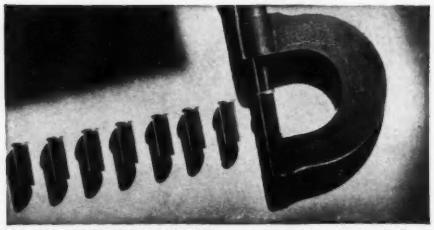

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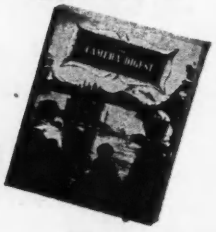


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## RIFLEMAN WORDS . . . .

Each month this "lexicon for shooters" is devoted to a few words peculiar to the shooting game which may be puzzling to the newcomer. All words defined here are used in a current article.

BEARING SURFACE—That part of a bullet's circumference which rides against the surface of the bore and takes the impression of the rifling.

BRINNEL HARDNESS—A term used in expressing the relative hardness of steel. A small steel ball is forced into the surface of the metal under test, and the penetration is expressed as so many points Brinnel. For metals of greater hardness, a cone-shaped point is used instead of a ball, and the resultant figure is expressed by a "C" (Rockwell-C) figure.

CUPRO-NICKEL JACKETED BULLET—A bullet having a lead or soft alloy core and a casing of copper-nickel alloy.

GAS CHECK—A small metal cup placed on the base of "lead" bullets in order that hot powder gases will not melt the soft lead-and-tin alloy of which they are composed.

GAS CYLINDER—In a gas-operated firearm, as in the M1 (Garand), the gas cylinder or piston seats just below a small hole in the barrel, and is forced back by the action of compressed powder gases in the bore after the bullet has passed. The gas piston acts against an operating rod, which transmits the motion to the moving parts of the action.

GRAPHITE WAD—Powdered graphite mixed with a hard grease-wax compound and formed in thin sheets. A small disc of graphite wad is often seated between the powder charge and bullet in high velocity rifle loads in order to lubricate the bore and, supposedly, to minimize washing away barrel metal by the action of hot powder gases.

LAPPING—Polishing the bore of a firearm with a tight lead slug and mild abrasive in order to remove tool marks and slight imperfections of manufacture.

LUBRICATING GROOVE—In cast lead bullets, one or more grooves around the circumference into which a wax or grease compound is forced in order to lubricate the bore as the bullet is fired.

OGIVE—The shape of a bullet between the point and bearing surface. (See BEARING SURFACE.)

OPERATING ROD—In the M1, the operating rod is the part upon which the gas piston or cylinder acts and which, in turn, is driven back to actuate the mechanism. (See GAS CYLINDER.)

RECOIL SHOULDERS—The metal parts of a rifle which butt against the wood of the stock and serve as supports against the rearward action of recoil.

SHIMS—Thin bits of metal, paper, Cellophane, etc., inserted between loosely fitting parts as an improvised method of securing a tight fit.

SPITZER POINT—Broadly, any bullet having a long, sharp point, such as the 173 grain Government boattail. The word is derived from the German *Spitzgeschoss*, meaning pointed bullet.

SPRUE CUTTER—That part of a bullet mold which cuts off the excess metal that protrudes from the mold after casting.

Pintails — Black Duck — Baldpate by Lynn Bogue Hunt
—from the Du Pont Museum, Wilmington, Delaware.

# Who Said Birds Don't Lay Golden Eggs?

Every sportsman has an important part to play today in helping to preserve the America-old tradition of an abundant game supply. For authorities say that, by and large, there's less game available. Yet there are more shooters than ever before. So protect that source of "golden eggs." Limit your bag. And join and support organizations for game conservation and restoration.

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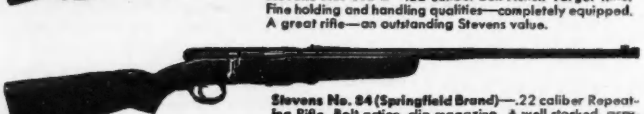

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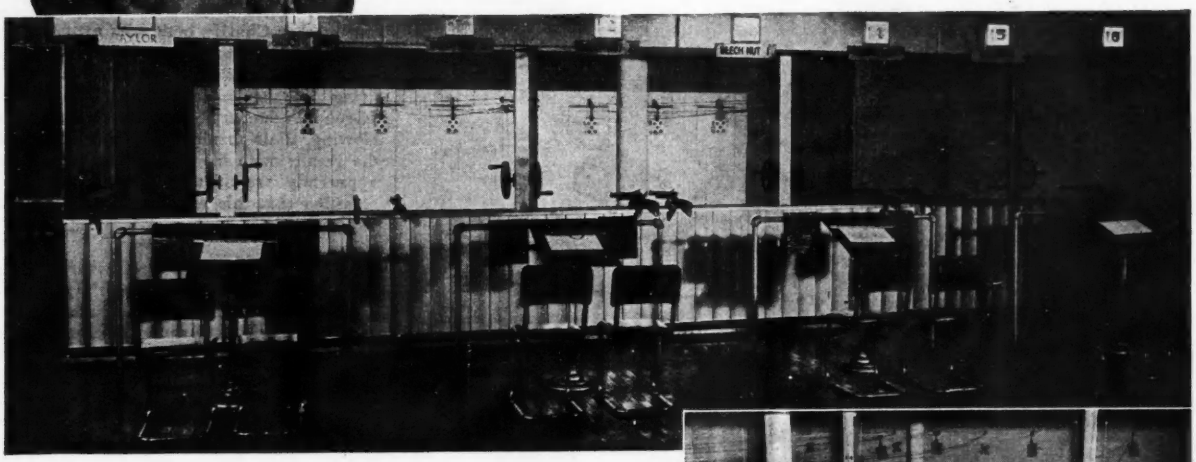

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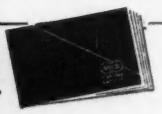

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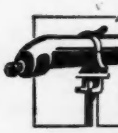

# The SPOTTING SCOPE

With RAY STANN

Things we'll remember about Camp Perry, 1947 . . . The delay in starting the first match as a squad of Marines with shovels dismantled a gopher hole in front of the firing line to recover the front sight which toppled in off the rifle of M/Sgt. Buyrl Battles, of Lowry Field, Colorado . . . Wayne Moore and brother Charlie, both with artificial legs, swinging down the street in perfect unison . . . Young Arthur Cook confounding the firing line technicians with his electrical "Group-Tightener" — bells ringing, horns blowing, dials turning—a gag, 'tis true, but the results with his electrically bedded rifle apparently are no myth . . . Jack Hession recalling that this was his 40th anniversary at Perry.

☆ ☆ ☆

Defending Pistol Champion Harry Reeves firing his first shot of the year's program—a perfect ten on Detroit teammate Al Hemming's target . . . Harry's dad, on his first trip to Perry to see his son shoot, monopolizing Harry's scope . . . West Coast hotshot Bob Perkins throwing a mighty scare into the 700-odd rifle competitors . . . With one of the most brilliant exhibitions seen on any range pretty Elinor Bell, another Pacific Coaster, doing likewise in the Women's Rifle Aggregate before losing by two points . . . The smart boys shaking their heads after Wayne Moore's victory and wondering if his 3194 total will ever be surpassed at Perry.

☆ ☆ ☆

The near perfect shooting conditions which held out during the entire aggregate, and turned into a Lake Erie gale when the last shot was fired . . . Wondering whether the quiet, sunny conditions were worth the price (in heat) of the early August date . . . Adelaide McCord deeply disappointed at missing the Dewar Team after earning a place three times before . . . Popular Sam Bond giving up top billing to his famous Ohio swiss cheeses.

☆ ☆ ☆

*True Magazine's* gun expert Lucien Cary, who has done much to popularize gun literature, having the time of his life and impressing everyone . . . Septuagenarian Sam Kennedy, Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph Rifle Editor bedridden with a spine ailment, making a one-day trip to renew acquaintances and shoot the Life Member's Match.

Missing from this year's top rifle starters: Bill Woodring and Bill Schweitzer. The Dewar International, fired in the early light of Saturday morning, attracting all the old-timers and those who make a tradition of attending the Dawn Classic . . . Fired this year under cloudy, gusty conditions.

☆ ☆ ☆

Hearing Ray Baless of the Ohio State Rifle Association drumming its .30 Caliber Matches in September . . . First big bore competition on the Perry range since 1940 and possible preview of the 1948 Nationals . . . Watching Perry turn into a ghost camp with the departure of the riflemen, and fill up again two days later with the arrival of the pistolmen . . .

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**5.** See diagram below. We take pride in turning the Bear Cub inside-out. There's no mystery about it—all it takes is designing and execution by optical and mechanical engineers experienced in working to the limits of human accuracy . . . bounded on one side by the strict laws of optics . . . on the other by pride in making a superlative instrument.

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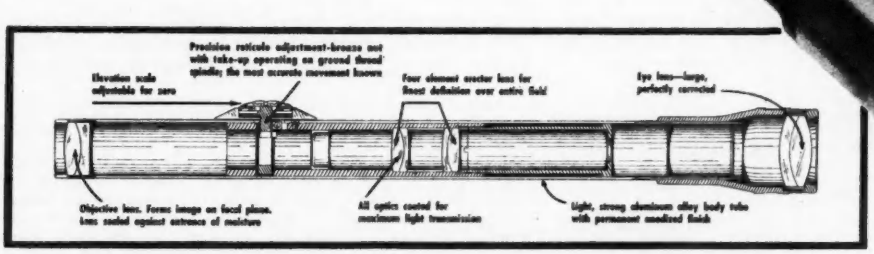
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# *Incidentally . . .*

One of those "minor" magazine changes . . . the decision to alternate rosters of the NRA's small bore, .30 caliber, and pistol rules committees with those of the Executive Committee and Executive Council, in that box on the Powder Smoke page (47, this issue) . . . made us stop and take notice the other day. Those committees, and some more like them, are the voices of the NRA membership-at-large . . . and yet chances are the average member doesn't know that they exist. Our fault in not talking more about the mechanics of the NRA . . . how it is run, not so much *for* the shooter (although that is a major part of the story) but *by* the shooter, which is another and a better way of getting at the same thing.

Take the special small bore and pistol committees, for instance, which got together last winter to talk over the competitive shooting game. First of all, a lot of preparation had gone into the idea before the committee members were even selected. Questionnaires were sent to every tournament shooter on our records at the time . . . asking their preferences, their gripes, their ideas on how to go about improving the target-shooting game. Then, at the time the Executive Committee got together for its annual meeting, the 11-man small bore and pistol committees (picked from among *active* shooters and tournament managers) made their recommendations, based on those questionnaires . . . on their own experience as shooters . . . on the ideas of shooters in their communities. In the July issue, you'll remember, we carried a report on the results of the questionnaire, and the committees' findings. More to the point, the matter was not dropped or stuck away in the file marked "Things-To-Do-If-We-Ever-Get-Around-To-It." At their April 12 meeting, the Executive Committee acted on every recommendation made by those committees, point by point.

☆ ☆ ☆

It doesn't make a very exciting story, to be sure. But that business of surveying the small bore and pistol games is a fair sample of how NRA members . . . in other words, the shooters themselves . . . control the actions of the NRA.

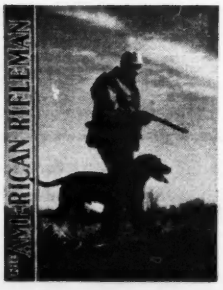
Basically, that control stems from the fact that NRA Directors are nominated and elected by the shooters. Directors are chosen by a simple enough system. Nominations are asked for from Life Members, who have the privilege of a vote. Once nominated, a "slate" is picked . . . to include men who will work for the shooter, and see that he gets what he wants. That slate is picked, also, with an eye on the map . . . so that representation covers as broad an area as possible.

Finally, the vote itself is held annually at Camp Perry, Ohio, during the Members' Meeting. Why there, you may ask, with no one present but representatives of the NRA's 20,000 competitive shooters, and no voice from the 230,000 or so who follow other angles of the shooting game? The answer to that one is fairly obvious. The NRA started as a competitive shooters' organization, and those Perry meetings were a logical outcome. Postwar meetings at Perry have shown, however, the need for a more general meeting of NRA members, if matters other than competitive are ever to be discussed. The meeting is going to have to be divorced from Camp Perry and the National Matches. You'll be hearing more about this over the next few months.

☆ ☆ ☆

All-in-all, the people who regulate policy for the NRA have proved themselves a broad-minded and versatile group . . . from the Directors and Executive Council to the members of the special small bore and pistol committees, and the three rules committees.

It's a dull subject. Things have been running too smoothly for any excitement to crop up . . . but we thought you'd like to know a little about how the NRA is run, and how the shooter's ideas fit into the picture. Actually, the shooter's ideas *are* the picture. He's running the NRA.—J.S.




## COVER

**Fall days . . . and the thrill of going afield with gun and dog! Subject of this month's cover is John H. Seaburg, Havre, Montana, director of the Montana State Retrievers Club. His dog is Mott Place Captain, a registered Labrador. "Kappy" won his first ribbon in 1946 in the Montana novice stake, and then, last fall, walked off with the Montana State retriever championship. The dog won the state title in competition at Billings, Montana, against three former state champions, when he was only 21½ months old. Neither Seaburg nor his dog, incidentally, is left handed . . . The photo has been reversed, the better to fit our cover proportions. Photographer was John Muuray, chief cameraman for The Corral, Great Falls, Mont.**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, WASHINGTON 6, D. C. DOMESTIC RATES (NORTH, SOUTH, AND CENTRAL AMERICA) $3.00 A YEAR; $5.00 FOR TWO YEARS, ELSEWHERE, $3.60 A YEAR; $6.50 FOR TWO YEARS. ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER, APRIL 1, 1908, AT THE POST OFFICE AT WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879. COPYRIGHT, 1947, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, GIVE BOTH NEW AND OLD ADDRESS AS THE LATTER APPEARS ON ADDRESS LABEL

# The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

*Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America*

VOLUME 95 NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1947



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AN EDITORIAL

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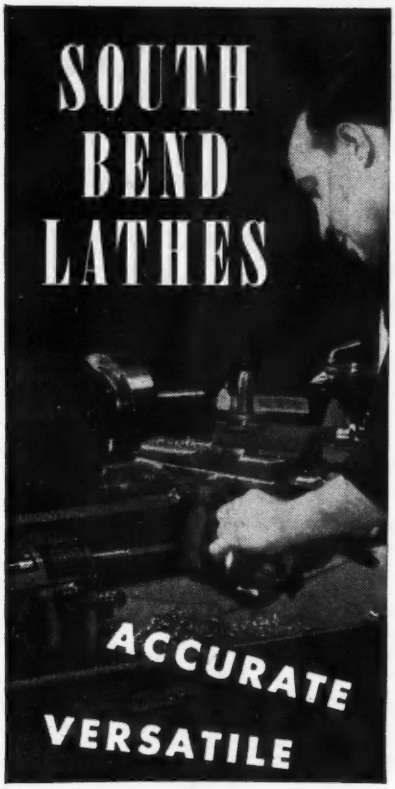


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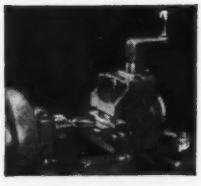

**SOUTH BEND LATHE WORKS**
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# *The Opium Eaters*

SHE WAS the Russian-born wife of an American who had served in Moscow during the war. She had been born, raised, and educated under the Soviet regime. She is attractive, well-dressed; lives in a neat, well-furnished home; competently drives a medium-priced car; is a good wife to her American husband and a good mother to her American son. Life is more comfortable for her in her adopted country than she dreamed of in Russia.

She said: "The thing that I can't understand about America is that everyone is worried all the time. They worry about what the government is doing and about what it isn't doing. They worry about prices. They worry about salaries and wages. They worry about their jobs. In Russia nobody has to worry about such things BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT TAKES CARE OF EVERYTHING." She was sincere! She is the perfect product of the Soviet educational system. She has been fed the opium of governmental paternalism from childhood and that opium is now essential to her peace-of-mind.

Don't worry about what the Government does or fails to do—the Government knows best what is good for its children! Don't worry about getting ahead in life—about your earnings; about the quantity or quality of your food, clothing, housing or medical care; about the kind of education your children get or what they are taught; about whether you can drive your own car or listen to your own radio. The Government knows best what is good for its children!

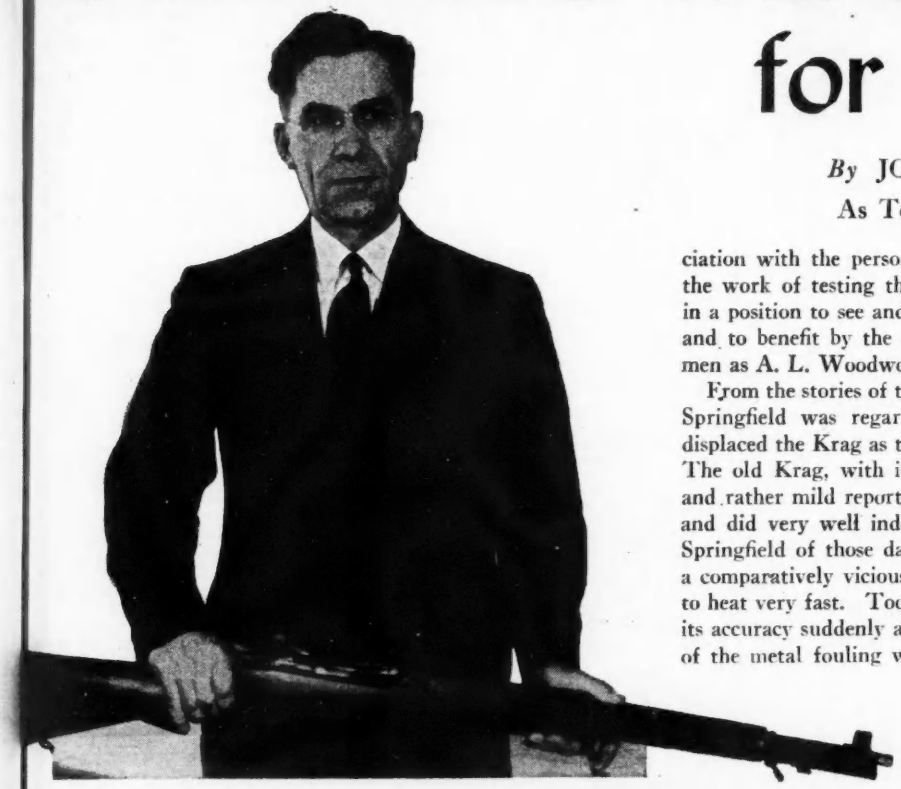
Don't worry, either, about *who* is this all wise, ever-present, never-failing Government. By all means don't worry about that—it is THE GOVERNMENT. By virtue of that fact and that fact alone it ceases to be bound by human frailties and thus supplants that other Almighty whom men have sought, beseeched, and praised in their several fashions from the beginning of Time. Thus THE GOVERNMENT becomes all wise, all merciful, though it removes you from your family, transports your tribe from its ancient fields to the barren steppes, tells you how much you may eat, what you may wear, in what factory or field you shall work, and what share of your labor you may retain.

True, in America many people have many things not available to the Russian people. Even the very poor in America live as well as the poor in Russia, in addition to having certain strange privileges such as seeking the work which is most to their liking and remaining among the friends and relatives with whom they are happiest. But all this is folly—it produces political arguments; drives the ambitious to seek betterment for their lot; causes men to sometimes seek comfort in a strange unseen Almighty who does not make His presence known by sending an OGPU man to knock on your door, or by giving directions for your way of life through the radio loudspeaker or "Pravda"!

Was it tragedy or humor—that naive remark "In Russia nobody needs to worry because THE GOVERNMENT TAKES CARE OF EVERYTHING"? In answering "It was stark tragedy because the lady was unable to see the humor in it" we place our editorial finger on one of the great weaknesses of the Communist line. No true Communist has a sense of humor because no one with a sense of humor can take the Communist line seriously. Though he is a master of lies and slander, charges and counter-charges, the Communist has no effective defense against ridicule—and more than one monarch and politician has, in the past, been ridiculed down to his true size!

DON'T WORRY, JUST LET THE GOVERNMENT TAKE CARE OF YOU! Ridiculous? Certainly! But too many Americans have lost their sense of humor and are taking it seriously!—C. B. L.

# GROOMING THE GARAND for PERRY



*By* JOHN C. GARAND
As Told to John S. Rose

*With the possibility of .30 caliber match shooting again in the offing, interest is increasing in the one question which seems to loom in the mind of the civilian rifleman. Will the Garand, he asks, shoot as well as the old Springfield? Will it be possible to develop a "National Match" Garand that will hold up at 1,000 yards?*

*To get authoritative answers to these questions, the NRA sent Staffman John S. Rose, of its technical service, to Springfield Armory, with orders to get the answers from the one man who is qualified to give them—John C. Garand. Here, for the first time in print, are the opinions of the Canadian-born inventor of the United States M1 service rifle.*

☆ ☆ ☆

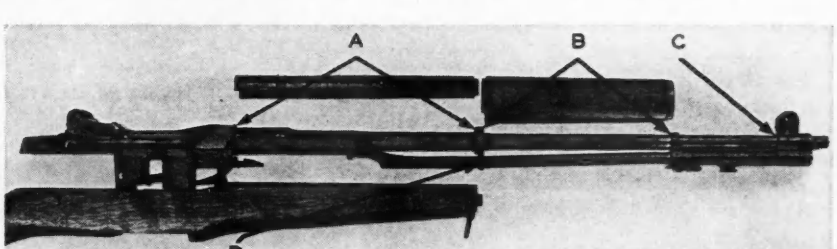
DURING the years spent designing what is now the M1 rifle, I came to realize that if the gun were ever adopted as the standard for the U. S. Services, the question of accuracy for match shooting would eventually have to be faced and solved. Thus, during the twenty-nine years spent at Springfield Armory, I have always studied the matter of accuracy as much as circumstances would permit. The fact that my work was carried on principally in the Experimental Department, in close association with the personnel who were charged each year with the work of testing the National Match Springfield, put me in a position to see and observe much regarding rifle accuracy, and to benefit by the close friendship and confidence of such men as A. L. Woodworth, William L. Bull and many others.

From the stories of the old-time shooters it seems the M1903 Springfield was regarded with keen disfavor when it first displaced the Krag as the official rifle at the National Matches. The old Krag, with its thirty-inch barrel, long sight radius, and rather mild report and recoil was a pleasant rifle to shoot and did very well indeed at the longer ranges. The "new" Springfield of those days had a short barrel and sight radius, a comparatively vicious recoil, a disturbing report, a tendency to heat very fast. Too, it had a most annoying habit of losing its accuracy suddenly at the most unexpected times on account of the metal fouling which often built up in the barrel after just a few shots with the high velocity cupro-nickel jacketed bullet.

Some of these disadvantages, such as the short barrel, were more imaginary than real; others, notably the metal fouling, were overcome and passed rapidly into the realm of memory. In the end the M1903 Springfield, like the Krag that had preceded it, became a highly popular target weapon and was hailed as the most accurate military rifle in the world.

I feel confident that history will repeat itself, and in years to come the Garand rifle will take its place as a superbly accurate match rifle.

Splendid weapon that it was, the 1903 Springfield had a few rather serious disadvantages as a target rifle, and I determined to avoid these as far as possible in my new design. One bad point is the fact that in the event of a punctured primer or a gas leak, there is a chance of hot gas or small particles of brass being blown back into the shooter's face.




**An exploded view of the M1 rifle, showing the critical points at which a poor fit may affect accuracy**

**The 1920 model Garand semiautomatic rifle differed radically in appearance from the M1 and employed a primer actuated action**

The breech mechanism design of the M1 fortunately lends itself to a construction in which the breech is completely closed at the rear end, thus absolutely preventing any blowback of particles through the mechanism. Moreover, the breech recess and bolt are purposely so proportioned that any gas which might leak out around the bolt would be deflected upward above the shooter's eyes.

Another point about the Springfield which is rather unfavorable to uniform accuracy is the full length military stock, with the action held at the rear by the two guard screws and at the front end also by the upper band. In these rifles there was a considerable amount of trouble from binding of the barrel by the upper band due to the swelling of the wood in damp weather. The remedy finally adopted for match Springfields was to free the wood around the barrel at the upper band, and as a preventive of accidental contacts, to bed the rifle in the stock so that the bottom of the barrel rested firmly on the wood with a pressure of from six to ten pounds. This worked well, but there was always the chance that the long stock would swell or warp and press on one side or the other of the barrel with a consequent change of center of impact.

It has been my feeling, confirmed by many years of actual experience, that the most favorable condition for accuracy is to have only the receiver secured in the stock, with the barrel projecting freely, held solely by its bearing in the receiver.

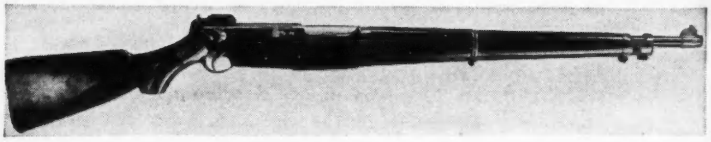
It would be ideal, of course, to have the barrel free of all projections and to have no objects hung on it, but that is impossible with a gas-operated semiautomatic. However, it seems that while any object attached to the barrel will change the location of the group center, it will not change the group *size*, so long as the object is fixed in its relation to the barrel. Thus, the M1 rifle will shoot the same size group with the gas cylinder attached as with it removed, provided the cylinder cannot shift its position on the barrel.

It was partly in consideration of the principles mentioned above that the M1 rifle was designed with the front handguard separate from the stock, and with the gun clamped to the stock only at the receiver and more or less floating free elsewhere.

There are two main principles to remember in trying to arrange for maximum accuracy with the M1. The first is that, as far as possible, nothing should touch the barrel at all except objects that are fastened immovably to it, such as the gas cylinder and the lower band. Particular care must be taken to secure these so they cannot shift their position. The second is that the wood and metal pieces that are positioned along the barrel should have sufficiently generous clearances to prevent any chance of binding as the barrel heats up from firing. It takes very little firing to raise the temperature 500 degrees Fahrenheit. This means an increase of length of over .05 inch between the receiver and the upper band. A reference to the lettered photograph accompanying this article together with the discussion which follows will make it plain that unless the necessary clearances exist, such a change in the barrel length would almost surely open up the group on the target.

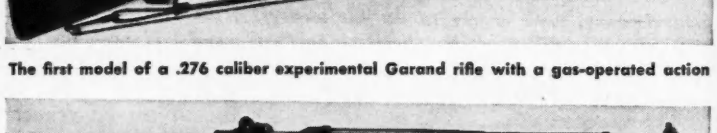
First, take the point D where the stock ferrule locks into the lower band. If the stock is long enough so that when the gun is assembled, there is a forward pressure by the stock on the lower band at this point, there will be a tendency for the barrel to be bent upward. As the gun heats up in firing, the barrel will lengthen, and thus pressure will be relieved, allowing the barrel to bend downward again. This will cause the shots to drop on the target. Hence, one of the conditions necessary for small groups is a fore and aft clearance at the point D. This clearance can be anything up to one-sixteenth inch and should certainly never be less than .01 inch.

Another place where there should be plenty of clearance is at the two ends of the rear handguard, at the points marked A on the photograph. If there is *(Continued on page 34)*

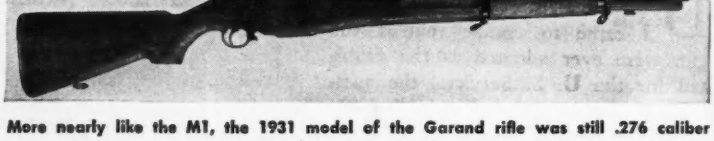


**Model 1921 Garand semiautomatic rifle had a primer actuated action and was clip fed**

**The first model of a .276 caliber experimental Garand rifle with a gas-operated action**



**More nearly like the M1, the 1931 model of the Garand rifle was still .276 caliber**



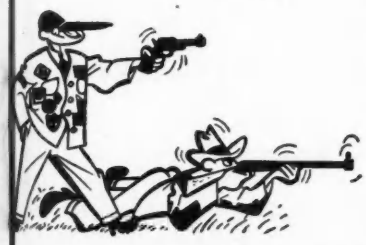
**The result of many years experimenting, the rifle adopted as the U. S. caliber .30 rifle, M1**

**Here, exactly as it was sent to your newspaper, is the day-by-day story of the 1947 National Rifle Matches . . .**

# SMALL BORE at PERRY

From RAY STANN and PAUL CARDINAL

**Camp Perry, Ohio, August 5** — Reigning Pacific Coast rifle champion Robert E. Perkins of Fresno, Calif., made his bid today to end Eastern domination of national honors when he scored two 400's and a 399 to tie for the lead as the 63rd annual National Rifle Championships opened here. Perkins' 1199x1200 total for the three opening events was equalled by Walter Tomsen, Flushing, N. Y., Master.



More than 700 competitors from every state stretched out on the 370-point firing line under hot but perfect weather conditions and began firing early this morning in the first of eight events that constitute the Critchfield National Small Bore Championship Aggregate.

Nineteen-year-old Arthur Cook, the 1946 junior champion from Washington, D. C., now firing in senior ranks, got the three-day race off to a sensational start when he cracked the Camp Perry record over the 50-Yard Iron Sight course, winning with 400-36X. The old mark, 400-30X, was held jointly by Bill Woodring and Ervin Brehm. Veteran Jack Lacy of New Haven, Conn., equalled Cook's score, but was outranked for first place. The 1940 champion, Dave Carlson, also of New Haven, and defending champion G. Wayne Moore of Washington, Pa., each had 400's with 35 X's. Charles C. Whipple, Greensburg, Pa., rounded out the first five with 33 X's.

Class honors went to Edwin M. Rader, Lorain, Ohio, who led the Experts with 400-30X, and Marvin K. Wiesner, Des Moines, Iowa, whose 400-31X topped the combined Sharpshooter-Marksman 1st Class-Marksman divisions.

In the second event, 100 Yards Iron Sights, old-timer John J. Crowley of Hamden, Conn., breezed through his 40 shots with a 400 possible and 31 X's, barely trimming the tournament darkhorse, Wiesner, who came through with his second straight 400, this time with 29 X's. W. J. Summerall, Waycross, Ga., Donald R. Mercer, Akron, Ohio, and A. J. Sharpnack, Pueblo, Colo., rounded out the first five, also with 400's.

Edna C. Donaldson, who with her husband and daughter, Martha, completes the shootin'-est family at the matches, stumped the Experts with 400-24X, while T. K. Stratton, Warren, Pa., showed the Sharpshooters with 399-27X.

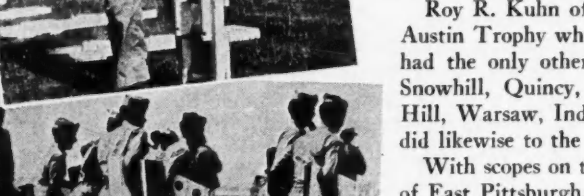
Carlson, who dropped three points in the second match, came back sensationally in the Iron Sight Dewar event to win the U. S. Cartridge Co. Trophy and set the second Camp Perry record of the day—400-33X, three X's above the absent Woodring's 1938 mark. Tomsen, with his second 400 of the day, and Ervin Brehm of Dearborn, Mich., John R. Wark of Kenmore, N. Y., and Fred Spencer of Sharon, Conn., all with 400 possibles, rounded out the top five. Gene Beecher, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, with 400-31X, topped the Experts, and Merl O. Preston of San Francisco, Calif., with 400-29X, led the Sharpshooters.

The one-legged Moore, seeking to become the first rifle champion to successfully defend his title in nine years, had a 400-398-399—1197 total for the day to finish behind Perkins and Tomsen, the leaders, and Grant Bomgardner, Palmyra, Pa., and Dwight Kleist, Souderton, Pa., who aggregated 1198 for the three events.

In the other match of the day, not counted in the championship aggregate, Wayne Moore and cousin Bob Moore of Claysville, Pa., teamed together to win the Lyman Trophy Doubles Match, totalling 399-27X over the 100 Yard Iron Sight course, missing another new record when Wayne dropped to a nine on the final shot. In second place came Elzie Courtwright and Walter Fowler, both of Washington, Pa.

**Camp Perry, Ohio, August 6**—The first new title of the 1947 National Rifle Championships was decided today when

**Champs and near champs! On the left is Elinor Bell of Los Angeles, who almost upset Adelaide McCord's four-time winning streak for the women's small bore title. In the center, attractive 16-year-old Audrey Bockmann, Ridgefield, N. J., who took the junior title. Right, G. Wayne Moore, Washington (Pa.), who won the open rifle championship for the second time.**



16-year-old Audrey Bockmann of Ridgefield, N. J., was crowned National Junior Champion with a score of 1590 of a possible 1600 points in four matches.

The pretty young sharpshooter, who early this summer beat the best seniors in New York for the Metropolitan title, edged Paul R. Kromann of Holland, Michigan, by two points. Edgar Lee, Alexandria, Va., youngster, was third with 1586.

Meanwhile, Robert E. Perkins of Fresno, Calif., shook off the more than 700 competitors at the 63rd annual championship race and stood today at the top of the heap by a margin of one point with five of the eight matches completed. Perkins turned in twin scores of 399 in each of today's two events to aggregate 1997 of a possible 2000 points after two days of firing under ideal weather conditions. Perkins led defending champion G. Wayne Moore of Washington, Pa., by one point. Dave Carlson, 1940 titleholder from New Haven, Connecticut, was in third spot with 1995.

In turning in his first 399, in the 50 Meter Iron Sight event, the veteran Perkins came off with first place in the Iron Sight Aggregate to take the Hoppe Memorial Trophy. His 1598-112X total out-X'ed Dwight Kleist, Souderton, Pa., who was second with 197 X's. Carlson and John J. Crowley of Hamden, Conn., with 1597's and Charlie Whipple of Greensburg, Pa., with 1596, finished the first five.

William F. Schaad, Ashland, Ohio, with 1594 led the Experts, and Merl O. Preston, San Francisco, Calif., led the Sharpshooters with 1590.

Roy R. Kuhn of Stratford, Conn., won the 50 Meter Iron Sight event and the Austin Trophy when he outranked Carlson after both had scored 400-29X. Kleist had the only other 400 possible of the event, with 25 X's for third. Kyle W. Snowhill, Quincy, Ill., and Perkins, both with 399-29X, followed. Rupert S. Hill, Warsaw, Ind., gave the Experts a lesson with 399-21X. Preston's 396-21X did likewise to the Sharpshooters.

With scopes on the rifles in the Remington Trophy 50 Meter Match, Sam Yasho of East Pittsburgh, Pa., continued the field's record-breaking performance by tallying 400-32X, just above Otto Kolb of Pelham, N. Y., who had 31 X's. Erv Brehm of Dearborn, Mich., L. F. Moore of Aberdeen, Md., and Wayne Moore, all with possibles, rounded out the top five. T. C. Rossman, Hollywood, Fla., with 399-32X, paced the Experts, while Preston continued his domination of the Sharpshooters with 399-30X.

In the American Dewar Trophy Match (not included in the championship aggregate), Jack Lacy of New Haven, Conn., fashioned a 400-30X to out-X the only other two possible shooters in the field, Al Freeland of Rock Island, Ill., and L. G. McCord of Sewickley, Pa. Walter H. Womack, Shreveport, La., and Cleveland's Roy Flowers, both with 399-28X, were fourth and fifth. R. F. Carrothers, New Philadelphia, Ohio, got the Expert award with the same score, and T. K. Stratton, Warren, Pa., edged the Sharpshooters with 399-26X.

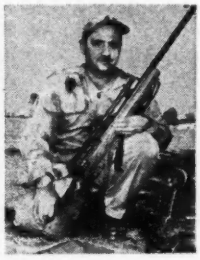
In the only other match of the day, the two-man team of Charlie Wipple, Greensburg, Pa., and LaRue Pollum, Brookville, Pa., made off with the Randle Trophy Doubles event over the 50 Meter Any Sight Course with a 400-31X total, which tied the mark set last year by Fred and Roy Kuhn. Another Pennsylvania combination, Frederick Lapinmaki of Monessen, and Robert Gideon of Carmichaels, was second with 398-32X.

**Camp Perry, Ohio, August 7**—In one of the most dramatic finishes in match history here, wooden-legged G. Wayne Moore of Washington, Pa., today came from behind to win the National Small Bore Rifle Championship for the second consecutive year. He did it with the highest aggregate score ever recorded on the Camp Perry range—3194 of a possible 3200 points.

The 39-year-old auto-metal worker, trailing by a single point at the start of today's firing, lost only two points in the final three events of the eight match race to overcome the near-record challenges of Robert E. Perkins of Fresno, Calif., and 1940 winner Dave Carlson of New Haven, Conn.

Joining Moore in repeating the 1946 victory story was Adelaide McCord of Sewickley, Pa., who retained the women's title with a record 3179.

Robert Perkins



Walter Tomsen

Robert Moore

Adelaide McCord

Dave Carlson

James Gleason

Going into today's three final matches, Moore trailed Perkins, the Pacific Coast champion, by a single point, and led Carlson by a point. In the first event, 50 Yard Any Sights, Moore and Perkins fired 400 possibles while Carlson dropped to 399. In the second test, Any Sights at 100 Yards, the brilliant Perkins skidded to 395 as Moore and Carlson matched 398's and took over first and second positions. With a two-point lead and only the Any Sight Dewar standing between him and the Championship, Moore poured out a brilliant 400-31X and walked off the line the first repeat winner since Bill Woodring turned the trick in 1936-37-38. Perkins gained second place with 3192 and Carlson took third with 3191.

Grant P. Bomgardner of Palmyra, Pa., who shot steadily during the three days, was out-X'ed into fourth, while Charlie Whipple of Greensburg, Pa., took fifth with 3190.

William F. Schaad of Ashland, Ohio, quietly aggregated 3185 over the eight events to beat the Experts. Merl O. Preston, the steady Californian, easily annexed Sharpshooter honors by 3181.

Mrs. McCord, who won the women's crown for the fourth time, was hard pressed all the way by Camp Perry newcomer Elinor Bell of Los Angeles, Calif., and the new junior titleholder, Audrey Bockmann of Ridgefield, N. J. Both had 3176 totals at the end, three points behind Adelaide.

In going over the four Any Sight courses with 1598 of a possible 1600, Wayne Moore took that aggregate by a two-point margin over L. F. Moore of Aberdeen, Md., Bomgardner, and Vaughn Cail of New Haven, Conn.

In today's three individual events, Walter Tomsen of Flushing, N. Y., made off with the 50 Yard Any by out-X'ing a big field of possibles. He had 36 X's to top Gustafson and Perkins with 34 and A. B. Wood of Elbridge, N. Y., and Paul C. Frey of Glenwillard, Pa., who had 32. Herbert H. Dunn topped Experts with a possible and 30 X's, while Frost led the Sharpshooters with 31 X's.

Frey continued his hot shooting in the following event, 100 Yard Any, which he copped with 399-29X, ahead of Triggs' 28X. Bomgardner, Jim Maher of Slingerlands, N. Y., and Charles A. Greiner of Hanover, Mich., followed. Fred Lapinmaki of Monessen, Pa., had the Experts licked with 398-21X and Vernon E. Wood of Zanesville, Ohio led the Sharpshooters with 398-23X.

James H. Gleason of Philadelphia, Pa., ended the aggregate competition by topping the field in the Any Sight Dewar with 400-34X to take the Western Trophy. Clyde G. Rohland of Harrisburg, Pa., and Herbert M. Walter, Maplewood, N. J., were the class winners.

Closing out the day's program, Harry Rochman of New Ringgold, Pa., creedmoored Fred Kuhn of Stratford, Conn., in the Life Members' Match after both tallied 400-33X.

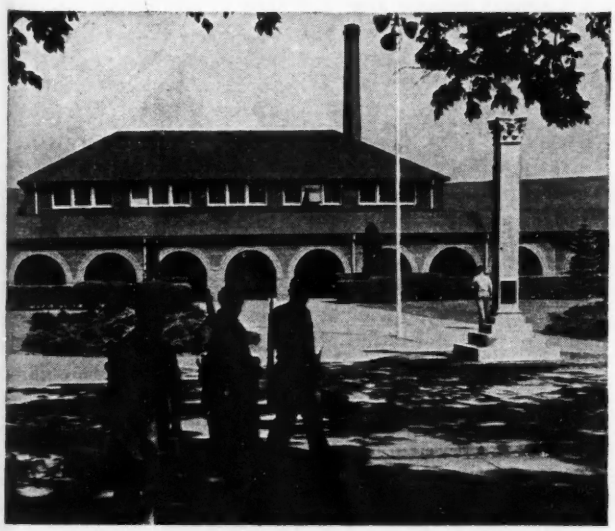
**Camp Perry, Ohio, August 8**—A six-man team of Connecticut sharpshooters today gained possession of the famed Caswell Trophy in the feature of the final day of competition of the 63rd annual National Rifle Championships here. Represented by Dave Carlson and Jack Lacy of New Haven, Fred and Roy Kuhn of Stratford, Fred Spencer of Sharon, and John Crowley of Hamden, the winners totalled 2388 of a possible 2400, beating Pennsylvania's "A" Team by six points.

Earlier in the day, the Bear Rock Rifle Club Team of Pennsylvania, made up of Ernest W. Pade, Dwight E. Kleist, Jr., Charles German, and Harry Rockman, took the NRA-Affiliated Club Team Match (Iron Sights) with a total of 1593 of a possible 1600 points.

The Frazier-Simplex team, featuring the shooting Moore family—Wayne, Charlie, Bob, and Bertie—came back in the second club event, scope sights, and compiled a 1591x1600 total to edge the Gunners Club of Long Island by two points.

In the program windup, Robert H. Wempe of River Forest, Ill., scored in a driving wind the only 400 possible in the "400 Club" event, with young Arthur Cook of Washington, D. C., and Adelaide McCord, Sewickley, Pa., just behind.

**Camp Perry, Ohio, August 9**—With the 63rd Annual National Rifle Championships now history, this is a ghost camp today. ♦ ♦ ♦



Perry landmarks: The familiar arcade and General Critchfield monument

## A SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISON OF FIFTEEN AMERICAN HUNTING SCOPES

# SCOPES FOR BIG GAME

By Edwards Brown, Jr.

MORE THAN A hungry postwar market has been responsible for the recent flurry of activity among hunting scope manufacturers. There is a hungry market for numerous other things which are still not available, but one can hardly point to a shortage of optical equipment for the hunter. In many other lines, inferior products were thrown out at high prices to take advantage of eager buyers. Fortunately for the shooter, this has not been true of the scope manufacturer. In every instance of which we know, these manufacturers have striven for high quality and from all appearances they have gotten away with it. Today's hunting scopes are good. Perhaps the producers knew that competition would be keen within a short time and that they would have to meet competitive products practically from the beginning. This should not detract, though, from credit due the manufacturers for a job well done.

The fast pace in the hunting scope field was originally set in Germany by such firms as Zeiss and Hensoldt. On this side of the Atlantic, the Lyman Gunsight Company fell into step with the Germans, long before the last war, in the production of the fine Lyman Alaskan sight. Running close beside Lyman were Noske and Unertl. Weaver produced a notable line of lower price scopes, though these were not in quite the same class (or price range) as those of some other American producers.

As far as the new scopes are concerned, it would hardly seem possible that so many firms could jump headlong into a specialized field of production and turn out a quality postwar product. There was a good reason, however, for their ability to invade the field. During the few years before World War II enormous strides were made in the production of good American optical equipment. Of course, when the war came, the few established U. S. optical manufacturers could not produce enough to meet government requirements. It became necessary to establish production in other plants. Fortunately (as it turned out), these "newcomers" could not hope to make optical equipment meeting Government specifications without considerable help from the older companies. In order to give them that help in a hurry, some patriotic companies opened up their secret files and made their "know-how," gained over a period of many years, available to the Government. Bausch & Lomb is an outstanding example and deserves lasting credit for that co-operation. Armed with the know-how of the established firms, together with special techniques developed during the war, more than one of the new organizations was soon in a position to turn out high quality optical goods. Today these new companies, working alongside the established organizations, are satisfying American hunters' suddenly increased demand for good scope sights.

Perhaps one of the first questions from a beginner in the game is, "What advantages does a telescope sight offer that my iron sights do not, and are any possible advantages worth the price?" That is a tough question to answer. There are some advantages offered by a good telescope sight, but whether or not they are worth the price is something which the user alone can decide. They will depend on how fat the purchaser's pocketbook is, and how miserable he will feel for years to come if he fails to take a prize trophy and blames it on the lack of a telescope sight.

The advantages of the telescope hunting sight are fourfold. First, it is possible to obtain a clear sight picture with the telescope, because the image of the target is in the same focal plane as the aiming reticule. Through an iron sight it is necessary to see the front and rear sights as well as the target, and all three are on different focal planes. Secondly, the target is magnified. This is of great assistance in identification of game before the trigger is pulled. For this same reason, a telescope sight is safer because the shooter can see his target more clearly with it. Third, a shooter requiring near- or far-sighted visual correction can find his correction in the focus of the telescope and shoot without glasses. The same individual may be able to shoot iron sights without glasses, but under those conditions he would be severely handicapped from the standpoint of identification of his game. Finally, it is possible to obtain a more exacting sight picture with a telescope sight than with the ordinary metallic hunting sight.

In all fairness, a few disadvantages should be mentioned. In the first place, the telescope is a more delicate instrument than are most metallic sights. If the rifle is dropped the telescope may suffer, thus changing the sight setting, or the optical elements may be damaged to an extent that will make the scope completely useless. The scope sight may become fogged

** In addition to the scope manufacturers who submitted samples of their products for check, we wish to acknowledge the help of William P. Klapp of The Original Sight Exchange, Paoli, Pa., for the loan of several scope sights, and for many valuable suggestions.*—ED.

at the crucial moment from condensation, rain, or snow. A good scope sight costs considerably more than the best iron sights. For close, quick shots in thickly wooded country the scope sight is not as fast as the open iron sights. Lastly, when the shooter is in an open spot, shooting toward the sun, but at a target in deep shade, visibility may be poor, and iron sights would be advantageous.

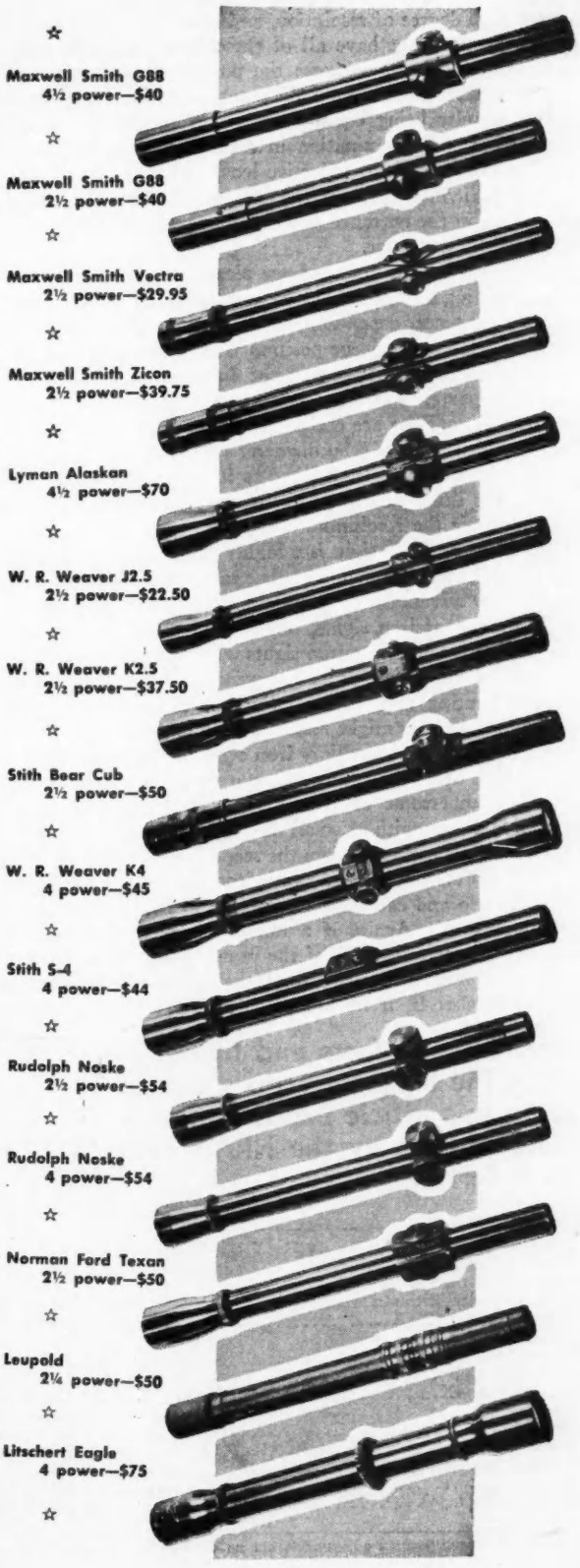
After weighing the advantages and drawbacks, let's assume that the decision is made. You are going to buy a telescope sight. Before discussing some of the points concerning the various makes of telescopes, let's evaluate some of the general factors one must consider as a basis for selection.

The prime consideration is the locale in which the sight will be used. If it is to be wooded country, where shots will be at close range on moving game, a low-powered scope is definitely in order. Everything else being equal, the lower the power the greater the field of view, and less apparent movement will be experienced. To a certain point, determined by the entrance pupil opening in the eye, the less the power the greater the amount of illumination. That factor of illumination may be an important thing in wooded country, and at close range a large field of view offers a decided advantage in picking up running game.

On the other hand, if contemplated hunting will be in open country and at longer ranges, where closer aiming is required, then the higher powered scope will be in order. An all-around scope, of course, suitable for big game at close range as well as longer range shots, demands a compromise. There is a solution, however, if the shooter can spend a little extra money on a Litschert or Edwards attachment. This is an enlarged objective mounted in an extension tube, which can be substituted for the original objective of the scope in order to increase the power. A 2½-power scope, used without an attachment and with cross hairs or large dot (say 3 or 4 minutes), is suitable for large game at close range. Then, for hunting varmints, the 6- or 8-power attachment can be fitted to give the ideal power for a varmint scope. In addition to obtaining the correct power increase, the attachment serves to reduce the apparent size of the cross hairs or the dot. This is exactly as it should be. In shooting varmints there is no sense in covering up the game. A small dot or fine cross hairs make it possible to aim with a great degree of precision. The dot or cross hairs of course are exactly the same size as they were before, but in the average American telescope design the cross hairs have the same magnification regardless of the objective lens. When the power of the scope is increased by the addition of such an attachment, the relative size of the cross hair or dot, on the game, is reduced in the same ratio as the increase in power of the scope.

The hunting scope with a high power attachment is not the ideal varmint scope. For one thing internal elevation and windage adjustments are not as accurate or as fine as good external adjustments. In the second place, if you happen to have an attachment which is mechanically constructed so that the objective lens rotates when adjusting for parallax, you will probably have to sight your rifle in again after making a parallax adjustment for change in range.

When selecting a telescope it is necessary, as in almost any other venture, to give and take. Naturally it is desirable to have a wide field of view, large exit pupil diameter, non-critical



focus, a high degree of resolution, and long eye relief. Unfortunately, you cannot have all of these things wrapped up in one package. If you increase the power you cut down the field of view, the exit pupil diameter, and the illumination. Everything else being equal, and within the limits of good scope design, the illumination in a scope is directly proportional to the area of the objective lens. There is, however, a practical limit in the size of the objective because the area of the opening in the entrance pupil of the eye limits the amount of light which can enter.

The reason for the enlarged eye pieces on many scopes is to aid in obtaining a large field of view and long eye relief. That enlarged eye piece, depending on the design, also will aid in obtaining a less critical eye position when the scope is in use. From the standpoint of the user the diameter of the tube is of no great importance as long as the tube is strong and the desired optical qualities are there. There are a few ways, however, in which a small tube diameter can alter the optics. It may obstruct the bundle of light as it leaves the scope, thus reducing the illumination. Also, it may obstruct the field of view or impair the resolution.

Generally the scope sight is a highly rugged and dependable piece of equipment. In spite of that fact, some manufacturers advertise the advantage of being able to remove the scope instantly for use of iron sights, or the equivalent advantage of being able to use auxiliary iron sights which can be mounted on the scope for use in case of an emergency. When going on an extended hunting trip, where failure of the scope or actual damage to the lenses might result in complete failure, it is not a bad idea to have an auxiliary iron sight along, provided it is not too much of a burden and does not result in a scope mount which is cumbersome or weakened. The Williams quick-convertible mount with its small auxiliary iron sight which can be attached to the mount when the scope is removed is an ideal type for such an emergency. This iron sight can be adjusted before the trip and carried in the pocket or in a compartment in the gunstock. Again, if a hunter is going into country where, during certain times of the year, he may run into continual heavy rains or snow, it might be best to figure on using iron sights; that is, if he has any misgivings about a scope. Here again the small auxiliary iron sight is an economical and ideally suited piece of equipment.

One other point to consider is lens fogging and condensation. In connection with this, a crude test was made by placing all of the scopes described in this article in an ice box at 31 degrees F. for ten minutes. None of the scopes fogged in the box but when taken into a room where the temperature was 75 degrees F. and relative humidity 72 percent, condensation on the outside of the lenses made them useless. In a matter of a minute or two they were all fogged on the inside, including the gas-filled Zicon scope. Five minutes after the scopes were out of the ice box they were again clear and usable. This is a severe test and the same conditions would rarely be encountered in practice. However, after a scope has become cool overnight, condensation on the lens surfaces inside the scope may result if it is taken out into the sun. This fogging will usually disappear in a few minutes as the temperature in the scope comes up to outside temperature.

From here on, we can get down to specific cases, and discuss individual scope manufacturers and their products:

The Maxwell Smith Company of Los Angeles is marketing a large line of optical sight equipment. Recently their engineering department has been bolstered by personnel formerly with Carl Zeiss and Hensoldt. These men have helped engineer a new 2½-power scope, the Omicron, which is designated as the Z-2. This scope is reported to have central focus, internal elevation and windage adjustments, 60 foot field of view at 100 yards, and a 24 mm. (.945 inch) objective lens. We have not yet seen this scope.

Maxwell Smith's Zicon and Vectra, while they do not come up to the higher priced scopes optically and mechanically, are excellent values for the money and are adequate for big game hunting.

The G88 scope, another Maxwell Smith product, is good but it is not as attractive in appearance as are most of the other scopes. With the cylindrical eyepiece it seems to lack that "streamlined" look. The M-S Zicon Special is an interesting venture. It can be purchased in 2½-, 4-, or 7-power. Maxwell Smith states that this scope is vapor sealed and filled with dry nitrogen to prevent fogging. Nevertheless, vapor will

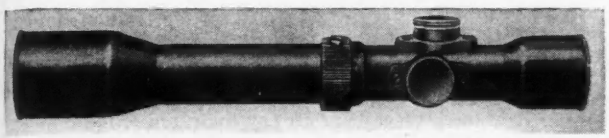
**Here are the facts and figures on all of the big game scopes discussed in this article based on the results of tests by the NRA's Technical Service:**

| | Power | Field of View (ft. at 100 yds.) | Optimum eye Relief (inches) | Exit Pupil Dia. (inches) | Dia. of Unobstructed Objective Lens (inches) | Outside dia. of Eyepiece (inches) | Tube dia. (inches) | Weight without Mounts (oz.) | Length (focused) (inches) | Caps On Adjustment Knobs | Clearness and Freedom from distortion near edge of field. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maxwell Smith, G88, 4½X | 4.23 | 24.0 | 2.6 | .16 | .68 | .98 | .87 | 11 | 11½ | X | Fair |
| Maxwell Smith, G88, 2½X | 2.26 | 35.6 | 4.3 | .29 | .68 | .97 | .87 | 10½ | 10 3/16 | X | Fair |
| Maxwell Smith, Vectra, 2½X | 2.60 | 32.0 | 3.3 | .26 | .68 | 1.00 | .87 | 7 | 10 10/16 | | Fair |
| Maxwell Smith, Zicon Special, 2½X | 2.44 | 33.5 | 3.4 | .26 | .68 | 1.02 | .87 | 7¼ | 10 10/16 | | Fair |
| Lyman Alaskan, 2½X | 2.16 | 37.5 | 4.7 | .36 | .71 | 1.23 | .87 | 11 | 10¾ | X | Excellent |
| Weaver, J2.5, 2½X | 2.10 | 32.6 | 4.3 | .28 | .59 | .98 | .75 | 6½ | 10½ | | Fair |
| Weaver, K2.5, 2½X | 2.12 | 32.6 | 4.9 | .38 | .81 | 1.24 | 1.00 | 8½ | 10 7/16 | | Good |
| *Stith Bear Cub | 2.23 | 35.0 | 4.0 | .32 | .75 | 1.00 | .87 | 5½ | 11 11/16 | | Excellent |
| Weaver K-4, 4X | 3.63 | 26.2 | 4.3 | .31 | 1.12 | 1.35 | 1.00 | 10 | 11 5/16 | | Excellent |
| *Stith S4, 4X | 3.55 | 22.5 | 4.4 | .22 | .80 | 1.24 | 1.00 | 8½ | 11¼ | | Excellent |
| Noske 2½X | 2.35 | 32.0 | 4.6 | .30 | .74 | 1.19 | .87 | 6 | 9 10/16 | X | Poor |
| Noske 4X | 3.60 | 24.1 | 3.6 | .20 | .74 | 1.19 | .87 | 6½ | 10 7/16 | X | Poor |
| Norman Ford, Texan, 2½X | 2.06 | 41.2 | 4.3 | .35 | .73 | 1.22 | .82 | 9½ | 11 | X | Excellent |
| Leupold 2¼X | 2.23 | 35.2 | 3.7 | .30 | .69 | 1.05 | .87 | 7 | 10 3/16 | | Good |
| *Litschert Eagle, 4X | 3.26 | 25.8 | 4.3 | .20 | 1.22 | 1.25 | 1.00 | 10 | 10 13/16 | | Good |

* These scopes have elevation adjustments but no windage adjustments. All other scopes listed have both elevation and windage adjustments.

form under some conditions on the lenses exposed to the air and, in the ice box test previously mentioned, the lenses became fogged on the inside.

The Lyman Gunsight Company entered the big game scope field cautiously several years ago. Their Alaskan 2½-power was tried out under all conceivable conditions. As a result they developed a fine piece of equipment which is now time tested. There is no Gallup Poll on telescopes but from reports of representative dealers it is still one of the most popular



**The Omicron Z-2 is a new 2½ power scope manufactured by the Maxwell Smith Company. It has not yet been tested by the NRA Technical Service**

if not *the* most popular big game scope in the United States. There is a very good reason for this popularity. If a hunter wants the finest in scopes, he can hardly go wrong in selecting the Alaskan.

Before the war W. R. Weaver of El Paso did a fine job in the low and medium priced scope field. As good as were those prewar scopes, however, they do not compare with the present Weaver line, which includes the K2.5, K4, and J2.5. The K2.5 and K4 are good buys, but the prize of the line is their J2.5. It is nice looking, well designed, and costs only $22.50. To us it looks like the best buy on the market.

The Stith Bear Cub 2½-power is fine optically but like the G88's it seems less handsome on the rifle than some other scopes. One concrete criticism is that the eyepiece does not lock after focusing. It is conceivable that the scope could be thrown out of focus accidentally.

Latest word from Stith is news of a new DeLuxe Bear Cub with a more streamlined elevation turret and a larger eyepiece, having a lock on the adjustment. In designing his scopes, Stith believes in having internal adjustment for elevation only, with windage adjustments to be made in the mount. He bases this design feature on the feeling that adjustments can be made more reliably if the reticule is required to move in one dimension only. Perhaps he has something here, although we have found other scopes are reliable, for all practical purposes, with movement of the reticule in two dimensions.

The Stith S-4 (made by Weaver) is good optically and mechanically. This scope, like the Bear Cub, has elevation adjustments only. It does not have an enlarged objective end. The reason for this is probably to make it more readily adaptable to the Stith-type mount.

Rudolph Noske's 2½- and 4-power scopes are light and appealing in appearance. The only objection to the Noske scopes tested is the distortion which becomes apparent as the edge of the field is approached. This may not seem important, since the center is good. It is still possible to spot a buck at the edge of the field even if his antlers do appear a bit askew.

The Norman Ford Co. of Tyler, Texas, has done an excellent job in designing the Texan 2½-power. It is well engineered optically and mechanically, and can be classed with the best. The exterior finish is excellent.

The Leupold and Stevens Instruments Company takes the blue ribbon for uniqueness of design. Their Leupold 2¼-power is good optically and trim in appearance. There are no projecting knobs. Elevation and windage adjustments are made by turning graduated knurled sleeves which are little larger in diameter than the tube. The finish is a pleasing dull black.

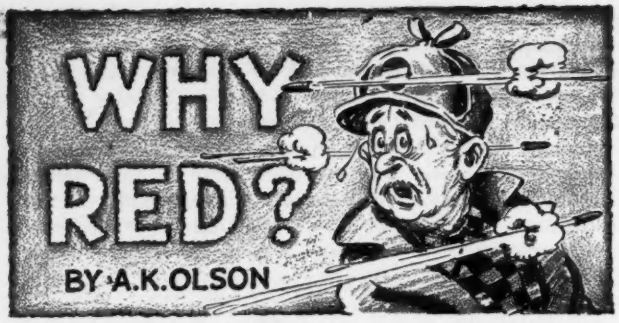
R. A. Litschert, who produces the Eagle 4-power, turns out high quality optical equipment and has recently expanded his line considerably. The Eagle has internal elevation adjustments but no provision for windage. The former adjustment is controlled by a graduated ring. This scope has a large objective for greater light-gathering power but, judging from the size of the exit pupil, he does not make full use of the large objective in his design.

Litschert informs us that he has been so busy turning out the "Varmint Master" and his new line of target scopes that he has been unable to do much work on such hunting scopes as the Eagle. He does plan to announce a new Litschert 4X next fall which he believes will sell for approximately $50.

All of this discussion adds up to one thing: personal preference. Decide for yourself whether you need a scope sight, and whether it will do the job you expect of it. If you decide to buy one, go all of the way. Decide carefully which one you want. Depend on it as you would on the rifle itself. After all, few hunters ever carry a spare gun. Mount the scope rigidly. Figure on using it under just about every circumstance. Learn all there is to know about it. Get its "feel." Otherwise, forget about it. ◆ ◆ ◆

"Boy, Al, does this new telescope bring 'em up close!"

**Camp Perry Pistol Events**—At the National Pistol Matches during the second week of August, T/Sgt. Huelet L. Benner defeated three-time winner Harry Reeves for the National All-Around Pistol Championship. Mrs. Rosiland Noble and Navy CPO John J. Young are the new National Woman's champ and winner of the National Individual, respectively.




*The hunting accidents which annually kill and injure many persons can, like other accidents, be prevented. The publicity campaigns now being conducted by the NRA, game commissions, safety councils, and insurance companies are designed to aid in this prevention by making the hunter aware that he might be the one killed or killing unless he is alert.*

*Every hunter has got to make himself conspicuous in the woods and underbrush, and make his whereabouts known to other hunters in the vicinity. He has long been advised to wear some piece of red clothing, if only a red cap, to do this. But A. K. Olson, after a distressing incident in which he was nearly shot by another hunter, began to doubt the value of red as the color most easily visible in the woods. This thought-provoking article resulted. It is recommended that all hunters consider the question he raises.*—EDITOR.

LAST FALL I STEPPED OUT of the door of my cabin in the heart of Wisconsin's Nicolet National Forest to get some stovewood. As I did so a hunter swung his gun up to his shoulder and took aim at me. I let out a yell that is still ringing in those parts, and the hunter lowered his rifle and stood there . . . feeling quite foolish. During the conversation which followed I learned some interesting facts.

When I stepped out of that door, I was wearing a shirt of the most flaming scarlet-red color obtainable. Yet, when I upbraided the hunter for aiming at me, insisting that no deer would wear so loud a shirt, he shrugged it off with the explanation that he had the most common type of color blindness —red and green look exactly the same. Since then, I have spent quite some time thinking about the laws that require hunters to wear red clothing. My conclusion is—Why Red?

Each year hunters wearing red clothing are killed by their fellow hunters, having been mistaken for a deer. (There are red deer, you know.) Of course, many accidents were the result of hunters spotting movements in the brush; color had nothing to do with such unfortunate events. On the other hand, many of the hunters who were killed by other hunters must have been observed by slayers who were not color blind. After my incident, I made definite observations as to how well red blended into the background. Red-and-black plaids were almost useless unless in direct sunlight. Flaming scarlet was O. K., but, on a dark day it stood out none too well. But once again—Why Red?

In the first place, red is not the color most easily seen, yellow is! Why did our Armed Services go to so much trouble to have all life-saving equipment such as rubber lifeboats, Mae Wests, and other emergency gear colored in chrome yellow? Many years ago the Air Corps made a study of the problem. The results of their studies proved that yellow was the most easily spotted of all the colors. While this is especially true when the surroundings are blue, it also applies when the water is green. Most of our woods are green, with brown next in line. The highway and automobile people have made very careful studies of the subject—and chrome yellow has become standard for safety markers. Fog lights have yellow lenses because yellow can be seen through mist farther than any other color. Again I ask—Why Red?

If the same lawmakers made the rule on red as are now trying to take our arms away from us by antigun laws, it is easy to figure out. They just took any color, red seeming to be as good a choice as any. Perhaps it was because the color red stands for danger. Obviously no actual thought was given to the matter or the color would have been yellow.

When the law says that a man must wear red, the average

**EVERY HUNTER WONDERS WHETHER OR NOT HE IS VISIBLE TO OTHERS. THE AUTHOR WASN'T . . . AND QUESTIONS THE TRADITION WHICH SAYS TO WEAR RED IN THE WOODS**

hunter jumps to the conclusion, as I had done, that he is highly visible to other hunters. He is quite likely to be less careful about making his whereabouts known to other hunters than would be the case if he did not think he could be easily spotted. Since red is not always highly visible—under some circumstances is almost invisible—do not our present "red" laws *increase* the likelihood of accidental shootings?

Someday, a state will actually give the matter the consideration it deserves. When it does, it will also require that a deer, when slain, must be enclosed in a large yellow cheesecloth bag before it can be moved. Such a bag would only cost a dollar or so, and hunters could then shoulder their deer for transportation out of the woods without danger of becoming a target. If such a bag enclosed the deer completely, including head and antlers, there should be no reason for plugging the hunter—he would be toting a brilliant-colored shapeless sack on his shoulders.

Once again I ask—WHY RED? ♦ ♦ ♦

. . . a hunter swung his gun up to his shoulder and took aim at me

# British Sniper

BY C. SHORE

Lying flat on his stomach he searched the ground systematically

**THE SNIPER MUST POSSESS ANIMAL ALERTNESS AND STEALTH. HE MUST USE THESE BESTIAL QUALITIES WITH ALL THE CUNNING OF HIS HUMAN INTELLIGENCE**

THE COMPANY COMMANDER WAS TERSE. "Johnson, I've got a job of you. I can't spare McGuire so you'll have to do it alone. Somewhere between us and Jerry there's a sniper who has given us Hell during the past two days, and we've not been able to locate him. He's fired only four shots and got two officers and two NCO's. This morning a patrol combed the copse on our right flank but he wasn't there. We've machine-gunned all over the place in front of us and we dropped some mortar fire there early this afternoon but apparently nothing happened since Mr. Sinclair was hit about half an hour ago. You've got to find that Jerry sniper and get him—tomorrow. Understand? Good luck."

Johnson, small, thick-set, grey-eyed, and quiet, went up to the line. Lying flat on his stomach he searched the ground systematically for a likely spot in which to lie up. To his front was typical Dutch terrain, interminable turnip fields, grey and brown and green and black, flat and uninteresting, their areas bounded by straggling bushes and hedges which did not afford the slightest cover. Some distance to his left was a small copse, a faint shadow in the gathering dusk of the late afternoon. He was attracted by a hare which leaped easily over the deep ruts caused by the passage of wagons crossing the fields when nearby paths were impassable. He knew then where he would lie up; in the intersection of the ruts—this would form cover, he could sprawl quite well in the angled ruts, and could fire around the tiny mud parapet formed by the loose earth pushed up by the passage of many wheels—and observation would not be difficult.

He went back to his cellar to make his preparation. He soaked a suit of denims and a black sniper's cowl and khaki gloves in black, oozing mud and allowed them to dry slowly. This was his first special job since returning to his unit from the sniping school. Cleaning his rifle that night he thought a good deal about the happy hours he had spent at the school situated in a sleepy Dutch village a few miles behind the line. He found a tremendous difference between this sniper's course and the instruction he had taken in England. There was no stiff and starchy parades; a man was treated as an individual, not just as one of a crowd. And about the place was an atmosphere which was meat and drink to a rifleman. He was instructed by a lieutenant who lived only for the "Great Game" as he called sniping, and who had a prodigious knowledge of sniping, shooting, and firearms in general. Johnson was taught scouting, stalking, and observation. For the first time he used binoculars and a telescope as they should be used. Although as a countryman he was naturally observant, he began to really "see" for the first time in his life. His stalking and scouting abilities were first class. He was a little slow in the theoretical side of the training, map and air photograph reading, compass work, et cetera, but Lieutenant Smith spent almost every evening coaching him, and between the two men, there developed a mutual appreciation. Before he arrived at the school a rifle to Johnson had not been just a thing of wood and metal as it was to many infantrymen. But after a fortnight under Lieutenant Smith's forceful magnetism his appreciation of the rifle increased a hundredfold. What had Smith said? "The Jap venerates his rifle—so must you!"

As Johnson moved up to his preselected position the air was heavy and cold with a ground mist. He trod carefully so as not to leave a track which might sparkle like rumpled silk. He snuggled down before the late dawn had lightened the eastern sky. The denims and voluminous cowl which draped his head and shoulders broke all outline. They had dried a darkish brown, and were a perfect match for the top surface of the ruts in which he lay. Beneath the cowl his face was

*Once a student in a British sniping school and, later, an officer sniping instructor at the British Army of the Rhine Training Center, Flying Officer C. Shore writes from wartime experiences. He was enrolled in the sniping school shortly after D-Day in Normandy, where he picked up on the beach the British rifle No. 4 he was to use later.*

*For Shore's comments upon C. H. Howell's "Sniping Rifles" which appeared in the April and May issues of* THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, *turn to his letter in Powder Smoke.*

blackened with mud so that the only light was the steady gleam of the cold grey eyes. A length of dark hession covered the rifle barrel; the muzzle was pushed around a slight mound on the soft top surface of the rut. Shaded scrim covered the stock and butt. The telescope sight was hidden by a piece of mud-covered flannellette. The cartridges in the breech and magazine were brightly polished; the bore of the rifle perfectly dry—freedom from any trace of oil meant no telltale smoke.

He was perfectly calm as his finger squeezed the trigger

The dried mud flaked from the cowl and Johnson could taste it but it did not worry him. All that concerned him, as the line of the nearby copse hove out of the morning mist as a long shadow, was that in the waste of grass and mud in front of him there was a Hun sniper. He knew that it would resolve into a game of unlimited patience—a game of hunter and hunted, both with retaliatory power.

As the hours passed Johnson became cold and wet, but he was above physical discomfort. Slowly the mist dispersed before the slight wind rustling from the east. He glanced cautiously upwards; there was now a good deal of blue sky to be seen. He avoided looking into the southeast—his vision must not be watered by a glance into the low sun.

Suddenly a hare loped past him and sat a few yards away with head and back erect, a pulsing mass of nervous energy. Instinctively Johnson held his breath. He could see the grey-blue glassiness of the protruding eye, the tawny, soft-suggestive pelt, and the silken, sensitive ears. The hare loped away—without fear. Johnson felt, rather than saw, a hawk hovering and quartering a few hundred yards away in effortless flight, with rapid beating wings and beautiful scimitar-arc glide—swift and noiseless. He watched warily the antics of half-a-dozen magpies. In their black and white plumage, almost vivid against the dark Dutch mud, and quick fluttering flight they were saucy and inquisitive like mischevious urchins. When they balanced easily on a thin limb of an evergreen hedge they reminded the sniper of a German plane, a Dornier, with their full bodies and long tails. But while seeing these things Johnson's brain was on the main task; he was a picture of cold, deadly concentration. To the imaginative there would have been a good deal of fancied movement in the ground immediately in front of him. But Johnson was practical and he used constantly his keen natural sight allied to his telescope which gave of its best in the matters of light transmission and resolving power.

Johnson again became conscious of the magpies when one of the birds leaped high as though jerked on puppet strings; in just the same way he had seen magpies soar in England before the war when they had seen the snakelike writhing of a weasel or stoat in the grass below. He knew there must be something, or someone, lurking in the patch of grass over which the magpie had risen so abruptly. Infinitely cautious he looked through the scope sight. His heart was racing slightly. He imagined that he saw a slight movement. Wait! Occasionally he closed his eye and rested. Then looked again. Suddenly he was sure . . . the Hun sniper was in a patch of grass about 250 yards away, slightly to his left. Johnson was perfectly calm as his thumb contracted around the small of the butt and his forefinger squeezed the trigger for the final pressure. The rifle spoke. With his eye still glued to the scope Johnson saw a lurching movement in the grass and a dark thin object like a rifle barrel jerk a few inches above the ground. Not losing one particle of his caution Johnson reloaded. It was very still. Within him he felt a slight sickness, and then the burning elation which every hunter knows. Slowly he turned his wrist and looked at his watch. It was just 1200 hours. He had a long wait before him. He was chilled and hungry. But he did not experience that helpless, fearful sensitivity felt by so many men when forced to lie for hours waiting for dusk and an opportunity to get back to their own lines. Throughout the long afternoon he watched intently. There was no movement in the grass.

In the first dusk haze he moved cautiously forward. He found the German sniper dead—rigid and cold. On his green face mask, just above the narrow eye slits, was a wide dark stain. Johnson took the German's rifle and returned the way he came—furtive—pleased! ◆ ◆ ◆

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

. . . the *Pistol* . . . received that designation in the middle of the 16th century. It is, we think, correctly assumed by Cibraria, that they derived their origin from the span-long hand-barrels, at first called *bombardelles,* made at Perugia (Pistoja), in Italy, in 1364. . . .

The first pistols were for the most part of tolerable length, some of their barrels being from twenty to twenty-five inches long. These date from 1547. Their stock was sloped but little, and mostly terminated in a sort of knob, which in the course of time changed into the form of pistol stock used in the present day. This kind of pistol was carried by the German Landskneckt (pike-men of the infantry), as well as by their cavalry, which acquired for their *Reitres* in France, under Henry II, the name of *Pistoliers.* —from *Deanes' Manual of Fire-Arms, London, 1858*

**AMONG THE DREAMS FOR THE POSTWAR WORLD IS ONE OF A NEW PISTOL . . . A NEW PISTOL THAT CAN BE CONSTRUCTED TO GIVE THE SHOOTER FULL BENEFIT OF MANY FEATURES THAT ARE REALITIES**

# DREAM GUN

*By* E. B. MANN

WHY IS IT, I WONDER, that magazines crowded with mouth-watering pictures of "The Car of Tomorrow," "The Plane of Tomorrow," "The Kitchen of Tomorrow," and "Bathrooms to Fit the Atomic Age" contain nary a picture—much less a working drawing—of "The Gun of Tomorrow?"

(No, I'm not forgetting the comic-strip "rayguns" and "disintegrators." But these, so far, are fantasies, made only for Buck Rogers and the Mars men. Moreover, they are ugly things, bulbous and bulgy, with fin-ringed barrels and teat-like handles sticking out at odd angles—a far cry from the sleek, shining, streamlined "previews of what is to be" in other products.)

It isn't too difficult to understand why gun manufacturers are content to let well enough alone. After all, they are swamped (just now) trying to make enough of the old models to meet the current demand; and new models make obsolete the old models for which the factories are tooled. (Of course, car makers turn out new models every year *for just that purpose:* to make the old models seem obsolete. New models require retooling for them, too. But gun makers are conservative, content to abide by what *is,* deeply suspicious of what might be.)

I can't provide working drawings, and I haven't the skill of a Jim Berryman or a Norman Rockwell to put ideas into line and color. The best I can do is to paint a word picture—out of ideas that are not fantastic, not new, not even original; ideas that have been tried, and proved. And I'll limit that picture to one gun only: "The Pistol I'd Like to Buy Tomorrow." You riflemen, you revolver lovers, you shotgunners—dream dreams of your own! As for me, I'm dreaming of a bright pistol, not like the pistols made of yore. . . .

An automatic pistol (call it a semi-automatic or a autoloader if you want to be technical), with target accuracy and "service" ruggedness, with a quick, simple "takedown" providing for easy interchangeability of barrels suited for target and holster use respectively, with a snug handful of grip providing back-of-the-trigger-guard support and set at the correct angle for true "pointing," with lines as sleek and "postwar" as those of the car you hope to buy when the dealer gets down to your name on his list!

Nothing very startling about those requirements so far, is there? Target accuracy combined with "service" ruggedness is not impossible; American-made pistols now on the market will take a lot of rough use and still shoot more accurately than a man can hold them. During the war, Hi-Standard produced pilot models of a gun featuring quick takedown and instant interchangeability of barrels: a long barrel for target work, a short one for holster use. The matter of grip and grip angle is simple; merely heed what shooters have been demanding for years. And streamlining requires only the right artists. . . .

(Incidentally, the grip I'm dreaming of is made of wood; walnut, by preference. I just happen to like fine wooden stocks. Maybe there are, or will be, plastics or what-have-you as beautiful, as pleasant to the touch, as firm to grip, as wood. But until I see such stocks, I'll fit my dream gun with walnut.)

But that ain't all! What about caliber?

Well, I want this dream gun in .22 Long Rifle caliber, of course, with a long, target-grade barrel for match shooting, and a shorter barrel to fit a hip holster when I want to carry the gun along for small game or for plinking. (If we're serious about international relations in sport, and if we plan to compete in the pistols events at the Olympic Games, why not make this gun also for .22 Short ammo? That's the load used by the winners of the superspeed matches which usually "decide" the Olympic shoots. What's more, it's my guess that a lot of shooters totally lacking Olympic aspirations might "go for" a .22 Short plinking pistol.)

But I want this gun in .38 Special caliber also—to handle all kinds (including wadcutters) of the present .38 Special ammunition or its equivalent.

"And now," you say, "you really are dreaming! Automatic pistols won't magazine those loads."

True, that's what we've always been told. But—those Hi-Standard pilot models mentioned a few paragraphs back were chambered for .38 Special ammo; and they worked! Top-flight pistolmen who tested them said that they "lacked only the final smoothing-up processes always needed by any test models in order to equal .22 caliber automatic pistol performance." (And I'm not "selling" Hi-Standard pistols, any more than I'll be "selling" other makes I shall name later. I'm merely listing my wants, based on what I've seen.)

Did somebody ask, "Why yearn for a .38 Special automatic

when we already have many fine revolvers handling that load?" If so, it wasn't a competitive target shooter who asked it, because he would realize the value of the salvage cocking time of the automatic over the revolver in Timed and Rapid center-fire competition. And as to "service" use—police and sport—I love revolvers as well as the next man, but an automatic *could* be made, and could be made in this excellent service caliber, which would equal all the best features of the revolver while still retaining all the unquestionable added advantages of the automatic: greater magazine capacity, faster reloading (by means of loaded extra magazines), and flatter design (less bulky).

Speaking of magazines, this dream gun of mine must have a magazine as finely made, as perfectly designed, as carefully machined as any other working part of the gun. Much of the "unreliability" of current automatic pistols can be traced to magazine failure. Magazine feed lips that are too thinly made, of cheap metal, are easily bent and distorted in use to cause malfunction and failure to fire. I want a magazine as long-lived as the gun, as accurately machined as a sear, a magazine I can take down for cleaning, adjustment, or repair; a magazine with no feed lips to become misformed! (Why trust a function of such primary importance to a part necessarily subject to so much abuse? Why not machine feed lips—call them ramps, or what you will—into the framework of the gun itself? It has been done—by at least one American maker on test models, and by foreign makers. At least one foreign maker, too, equipped his pistols with heavy, beautifully machined magazines that made our American products look like dime-store "bargains." Those pistols didn't malfunction because of magazine trouble, either.) True, such magazines will add to the cost of my gun. But I'd as soon pay that premium as a part of the "first cost" as to pay it in "upkeep" *after* losing a match or having to face enemy fire because of a gun failure!

This gun I'm dreaming up will have a double-action mechanism for firing the first shot; a mechanism similar to that used in various Walther models, in the Sauer, and in other foreign-made pistols. Not necessarily the same mechanism as that used in those pistols, but a perfected version thereof.

Ask any reasonable well-informed law enforcement officer why he carries a revolver instead of an automatic and he'll tell you, "Because a revolver is faster in getting off the first shot; and because a revolver won't jam." (Of course, it may be true that the individual, or even the average, police officer isn't fast enough "on the draw" to take advantage of the potentially superior first-shot speed of the revolver; he's just telling you what he's been told. But he's right; the potential difference is there, due to the safety devices currently considered necessary for the safe carrying of a fully loaded automatic.)

But tests have proved that an automatic pistol equipped with the double-action first-shot mechanism *can* be as fast as a revolver in the first-shot draw-and-fire. It would seem to me that this fact alone would persuade American makers of automatic pistols to adopt the double-action feature, since it would open up to them the comparatively immense law-enforcement markets heretofore practically closed to them because of this one prejudice. Anyway, I want it on my "gun of tomorrow." I want that gun to be as fast as a revolver in getting off the first shot—with the added magazine capacity, quick reloading possibilities, and the flat "torso" of the automatic.

As to jamming—a revolver can jam, too, on faulty ammunition. And a properly made, properly cared for automatic needn't jam, either—unless for the same reason.

One extremely gun-wise law enforcement officer told me, "I'd *still* want a revolver—because with a revolver, if a cartridge fails to fire, I can haul back a second time on the trigger and get a new deal! With an automatic, even with the double-action feature, emptying the chamber and reloading with a fresh round would be a two-handed, time-consuming operation." That's true; and it's a problem I can't solve. Maybe it *can* be solved mechanically. Maybe the double-action mechanism can be made so that a second double-action trigger pull will empty and reload the chamber. It looks impossible to me; but then so does radar!

But I still want the double-action first-shot automatic. In the first place, I get very, very few misfires out of factory ammunition. In the second place, nine out of ten of the misfires I do get will fire perfectly if I hit them a second time with the hammer. You can hit them a second time with a double-action automatic, just as you can by re-setting the cylinder of a revolver. If that fails—well, maybe my number was up anyway!

Given this revolver-type double-action mechanism, it should be possible to include in an automatic a completely reliable, *completely automatic* safety mechanism similar to that used in modern revolvers: no levers or buttons to push or pull, nothing to remember—or forget . . . I want it.

I want other safety devices, too. I want a slide stop, to hold the slide open when the magazine is empty. (Some automatics made today have it, some don't.) I want a magazine lock that will prevent the gun from being fired after the magazine is removed—as a guarantee against that "didn't know it was loaded" cartridge in the chamber that so often leaves current automatics ready to fire even after the magazine has been removed. (This is no dream; it has been done; can be done to your present automatic.)

And—I want an "indicator" like or similar to the tiny floating pin just above the hammer of the Walther P-38, which will tell me, by sight or by touch, whether or not there is a cartridge in the chamber.

I want, too, a device (similar to those in the Sauer, Walther, and other foreign-made guns) whereby the hammer can be let down *safely* when the chamber is loaded, so that the gun can be carried in complete readiness for that double-action first shot. (This will need to be an improvement over the devices for this purpose now in use, since some of these are unsafe.)

For the target shooter (at least), the gun should have a trigger stop—and a trigger-pull adjustment governing weight of trigger pull without the use of a file or stone!

It should have click-adjustable sights, with easily interchangeable "apertures" and posts for adaptation to different lights, different uses, different background.

Speaking of sights, and going back also to the matter of appearance—is it necessary that the *(Continued on page 34)*

# HIGH-VELOCITY CAST BULLETS

*By* ROBERT HUTTON

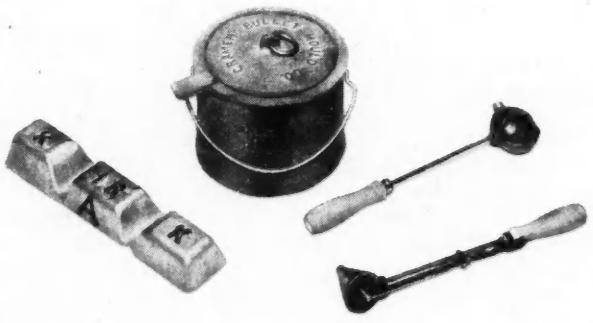
IT WAS REPORTED IN THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN (December, 1946) that bullets cast of Kirksite "A" could be driven safely and accurately at slightly faster velocities than lead-alloy bullets. And that was all there was to say at the time. It was reasonably certain that Kirksite bullets could be driven at higher velocities but I was not able to prove it then—even to myself. Tests of what seemed to be unbelievable velocities for any kind of bullet needed to be repeated and their results verified.

This has now been accomplished. Loads have been chronographed, velocities have been checked with trajectory tests (in many instances up to 500 yards); and a number of reliable experimenters have checked the results of my tests in their own rifles.

Many loadings have been tested in various rifles and all indicate faster velocities with less pressures than those which result from firing jacketed bullets of similar weight. Three of the most interesting loads have been chronographed. In one instance a load has been carefully verified—with better accuracy than I obtained—by Mr. A. H. Barr of the technical staff of the National Rifle Association.

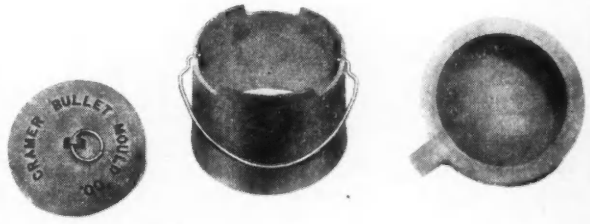
Some manufacturers of handloading equipment have already altered their molds and bullet designs so they can produce these fast bullets. One of them has designed a properly coated melting-pot for use with Kirksite "A."

In early tests with bullets made of Kirksite "A" accuracy proved to be about the same as obtained with lead-alloy bullets but Kirksite "A" bullets gave higher velocities. The same powder loads and primers that have been used in orthodox lead-bullet cartridges worked very well with Kirksite "A" bullets. In good rifles the Kirksite "A" bullets gave nice accuracy. In some of the older, cheaper rifles, accuracy was about the same as that obtained with lead bullets.



**The Cramer Bullet Mould Co. now manufactures a melting pot, conventional metal dipper and pressure dipper for use with Kirksite "A" alloy**

Then I began taking data from the handbooks which referred to lighter, jacketed bullets. Also, from the files of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN I found that Fred Ness had conducted tests with zinc bullets and 4198 powder in the .30-'06, and obtained satisfactory results. This gave me my first and best clue to a proper load for use with these light Kirksite bullets. I tried 40 grains with Kirksite "A" and have been crowing about the results ever since. Accuracy was splendid but I thought I could get more speed with Kirksite bullets than Ness had been able to get with zinc. I switched from an M'03 to an M'17 rifle, to get a .311-inch barrel—the size of the bullets—and worked the load up to 45 grains.




**Because melting point of Kirksite "A" is very high, the Cramer melting pot is made with an inner liner to decrease the heat lost by radiation**

It is worth noting that 45.5 grains of 4198 was the maximum powder load for the 110 grain .30-'06 jacketed bullet on the last occasion that du Pont offered figures on cartridge loading. This .30-'06 load gave a velocity of 3150 feet per second.

Tests with the 40 grain load and Kirksite "A" bullets proved to be absolutely safe, with the bullets making 2½- to 3-inch groups at 100 yards, bench-rest shooting with iron sights. Moreover, these bullets grouped higher on the target than 180 grain Silver tips.

Now I must describe the bullet used in these .30 caliber tests. It was made from the Carl Cramer mold No. 46 (.311-158). This is Cramer's standard bullet for the .300 Savage cartridge. It has one lubricating groove and a gas-check base. Its ogive is rather long and pointed, almost identical to the U. S. M11 bullet. In linotype metal this bullet had given excellent accuracy at gas-check bullet velocities, with the usual loads in a M1917 rifle which Hilding A. Tegner of Santa Monica, California, had converted into a sporter several years previously.

This bullet was "right" for the rifle. It was sized to .311 inch, it was the exact size and shape of a 158 grain bullet, but it weighed only 97 grains when made out of Kirksite "A." The closest "authentic" load I could find was that listed for the 110 grain bullet and this was the basis for most of the subsequent experiments.

We were ready for the first high-speed tests—with 45 grains of No. 4198. We met at the range early one Sunday morning last September. Mr. Tegner was to do the shooting, with his scope-mounted rifle. I was to produce the ammunition and do the spotting.

Discounting two fliers, the 100-yard group measured three-and-one-half inches. It was four inches higher on the target than the zero for 180 grain factory ammunition. At 200 yards the group measured six inches across and centered six inches

higher than the point of aim on the target. This merely bewildered us and still does. At 300 yards the group (five shots) still measured six inches and the hits were nicely distributed on point of aim. There were no "pencil lines" or evidence of tipping.

The only 500-yard target available at the time was a thirty-inch disc wired to a tripod; by "overholding" only half the diameter of the disc, the bullets hit the mark with better regularity than a .270 Winchester with 130 grain factory loads. The chap who had the .270 said he was holding higher over the target.

I mention these 500-yard tests as an experience in ballistics with a new bullet rather than as a report. The rifle had been moved and replaced on the rest; weather had changed. The scope was a 2½X hunting scope. Conditions were not ideal for 500-yard shooting.

To summarize this test, this is the trajectory of that load:

| *100 yards* | *200 yards* | *300 yards* | *500 yards* |
|---|---|---|---|
| +4 in. | +6 in. | 0 | −25 in. (about) |

It would seem that the excellent shape of this bullet benefitted tremendously by the inherent lightness of Kirksite "A" and purely by miracle (so far as we were concerned) maintained its stability up to 500 yards exceedingly well. There was no trace of yaw on any of the targets. Also, because of its design the bullet did not lose velocity nearly as fast as the jacketed 110 grain bullet.

Since that day I have found even faster loads and gotten better accuracy at these distances but no other bullet or any other caliber has proved to be quite as good as the one for the M1917. I have tried to have molds made to copy its design—especially in .25 caliber—but results were not as good.

Complete .30 caliber data in which this bullet was used, in this and other cartridges, are shown in the accompanying list. Among the .30-'06 loads, however, I believe 58 grains of 4320 will be hard to improve upon. I sent about 100 of these bullets to Mr. Barr and asked him to try them with this load, in his heavy-barreled Springfield rifle with high-powered scope. This Mr. Barr did, and reported that at 200 yards he obtained one five-shot group of 2.7 inches. His trajectory read:

| *100 yards* | *200 yards* | *400 yards* |
|---|---|---|
| +3 in. | +6 in. | −15 in. |

He obtained even better 200-yard accuracy by dropping the load to 56 grains—a ten-shot group of 3.8 inches. His comment: "I think this will shoot about as well as the 110 grain jacketed bullet in most rifles."

I then took the rifle and several of the 58 grain loads to Roy Weatherby who chronographed them on his Potter Chronograph at 3395 f.s. Remington's figure for the velocity of the 110 grain bullet is 3380 f.s.

When Wilbur Martin, Weatherby's assistant, returned from the sound-proofed chronograph room he said to me:

"Hell, mister, you forgot to put powder in this case!"

The recoil and muzzle blast, at least, were conspiculously absent. The velocity was not. It was just a whisper under 3400 f.s.

I still don't know what the pressure is. But none of the usual indications of heavy pressures were present. Primers were F.A. 70, in almost every instance.

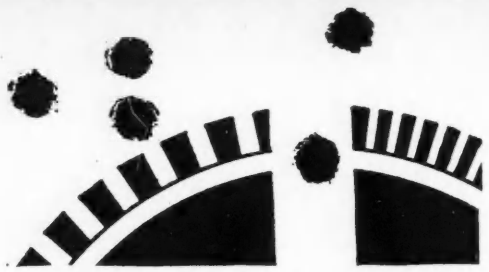
Though all of my own tests have not been made on this basis, I do believe that Kirksite "A" bullets should be sized to groove diameter of the barrel, for safety's sake, as well as that of accuracy. Anyhow, I want to go on record as saying so, though some of my best early results, as well as Barr's, were fired in Springfield rifles. Later I learned that Kirksite "A" has the Brinell hardness of 100—about that of soft steel. It has a compressive strength of 60,000 lbs. per square inch.

Briefly, I think the following is the best procedure in casting these bullets.

Use only pure Kirksite "A." Do not get your metal from a junkyard.

Melt it in a pot that never has been used in melting lead, tin, or any other alloy.

The pot, if not new, should be sandblasted and then painted with "Kettle Koater," a product of the manufacturers of Kirksite "A."



*The group above was fired with cast bullets at better than 3800 foot-seconds velocity. To our knowledge this is the fastest speed at which cast bullets have been driven.*

*The gas-check bullets which gave this high velocity were made of Kirksite "A" and weighed 29 grains each. They were cast by Robert Hutton in Cramer No. 60A and No. 60B molds. After casting, the bullets were run through a .2225-inch B. & M. sizer and came out .224 inch diameter.*

*In the first accuracy test with Cramer 60A bullets the powder charges varied from 34.0 to 37.0 grains of No. 3031. The center-to-center measurements of groups fired at 100 yards range were 2.48 and 3.02 inches. There was some fouling the barrel after firing but it was easily removed with a wire brush.*

*The cartridges used in the second trial for accuracy with 60A bullets had .046-inch Ipco wads seated between the powder and the bullets. No fouling was evident from firing these, even with a charge of 40.0 grains of No. 3031 powder, and pressure was low with the heaviest load. The most accurate load with the graphite wad, giving a group which measured 2.16 inches across, was 38.5 grains of No. 3031. The 100-yard group enlarged to 5.32 inches when the heavier 40 grain charge was used. Factory loads in the standard weight .220 will give no better than 1½-minute-of-angle groups, so Kirksite bullets are reasonably accurate.*

*The 60B is a flat-point bullet which, loaded with 35.0 and 37.0 grains of No. 3031 powder, gave the best accuracy. Both groups fired at 100 yards measured less than two inches.*—A. H. BARR.

Do not use any other variety of Kirksite. Mr. F. A. Eichron, assistant sales manager, and Mr. Leslie Larrieu, chief chemist, of the Kirk organization, have invited me to the plant for the express purpose of getting this warning into print. The smallest particle of lead in Kirksite "A" can produce dangers from expansion and disintegration.

Before I knew of this I had obtained some pure Kirksite "A" and melted it in a pot that previously contained lead. I had cleaned it before using the Kirksite. I sent Mr. Larrieu a sample bullet for analysis and this is his report:

"Maximum allowed lead content of 0.007% exceeded by sample submitted. Tin content is twice maximum amount allowed. Amount of impurities in this sample could cause serious trouble in your application. . . ."

It seems that the action of lead or tin upon Kirksite "A" is very much like that of mercury upon brass. Handloaders know just what that means.

But here's the confession! It was that same polluted Kirksite "A" that was fired in pioneering what may be the fastest bullet to be produced yet by the casting process! Indeed, the Ordnance Department of the United States Army is testing and investigating the possibilities of pure Kirksite "A" bullets. I have withheld the writing of this article for several months until I could obtain an official release of the information of my own experiments.

Well, it has taken me some time, it seems, to get the metal into the pot. Let's presume it to be there, without lead or tin.

Kirksite "A" melts at 717 degrees F. Preheat your mold over an open flame. At first use only one cavity until it is hot as the metal. Then try another cavity, and so on. Otherwise you will have to give the sprue cutter an awful wallop and the bushing will break off.

Do not flux Kirksite "A." After you have made about thirty bullets the mold will get too hot. Set it aside a few minutes and try another mold.

If some of the metal sticks in or plates the mold, there is only one way to clean it and that is with muriatic acid. Immediately after cleaning it, dunk the mold in boiling water and soda for fifteen minutes.

If the design of your bullet calls for gas checks, use them. Lubrication is simple anyhow, but as far as I can determine at the moment, it makes little or no difference. Kirksite "A" is internally lubricated. Bullets should not be sized until you are ready to load them in their cases. Then fire them within a week or they may expand.

You are wondering what you should do if your barrel becomes plated. I don't know. I know what I will do if I ever succeed in plating one. I will give it the same treatment the molds get. I tried the hottest loads I dared without lubricant or gas check and, after each trial, the barrel cleaned out beautifully with a brass brush.

In this connection, and also in reference to the question of how much speed will a Kirksite "A" bullet stand, I think the most interesting test of all is still to be made—with the .220 Swift.

Just what hunting value Kirksite "A" bullets will have, I don't know yet. It isn't that I haven't tried to find out. I took the trouble to trek over the upper reaches of the Gila River in New Mexico last fall, with nary a shot.

However, recently I loaded some 60 grain Kirksite "A" bullets from Cramer's 55A mold into my .257 Roberts cases in front of 43 grains of 4320. Scope sight adjustments were set for point of aim at 250 yards with my best deer load—the 120 grain Speer bullet, 45 grains of 4350, and Remington 9½ primers.

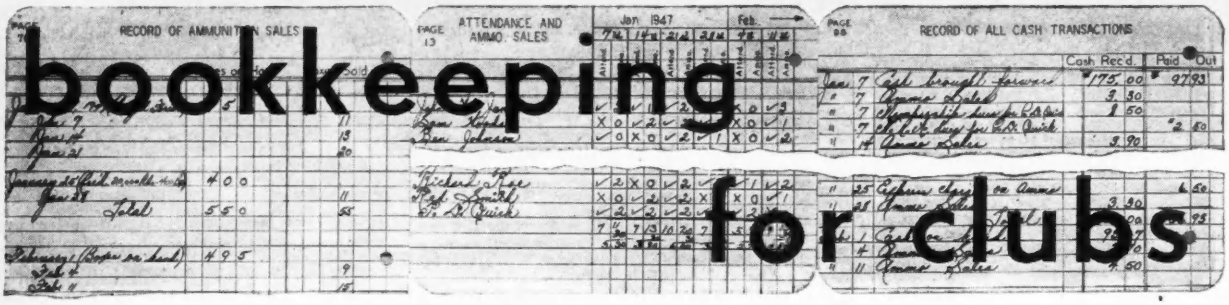
I took the outfit to my ranch. A large hawk lighted in an oak tree about 200 yards away. I took the prone position with sling and did my stuff. The hawk folded immediately, but did not "distintegrate." It was as though he had been hit with a full metal-cased bullet. And this load (chronographed at 3345 f.s.) may be just about the answer to Colonel Townsend Whelen's prayer of some thirty years voicing, for a good grouse load. Also it should make a good wild turkey load.

In this manner the heavy game load and the light Kirksite "A" load may be synchronized so that up to 200 yards no change in sight setting will be needed.

I have tested the following loads in standard rifles, using F. A. No. 70 primers mostly. Standard reloading tools, resizing dies, and molds were used in loading the cartridges.

| *Powder Weight* | *Powder* | *Bullet Weight in Kirksite "A"* | *Velocity* |
|---|---|---|---|
| .257 Roberts | | | |
| 39 gr. | 4320 | 55 gr. | 3150 fs.* |
| 40 gr. | 4320 | 55 gr. | 3200 fs.* |
| 41 gr. | 4320 | 55 gr. | 3250 fs.* |
| 42 gr. | 4320 | 55 gr. | 3300 fs.* |
| 43 gr. | 4320 | 55 gr. | 3345 fs.** |
| 30 gr. | 4198 | 55–60 gr. | 3100 fs. |
| 31 gr. | 4198 | 55–60 gr. | 3150 fs. |
| 32 gr. | 4198 | 55 gr. | 3200 fs. |
| 33 gr. | 4198 | 55 gr. | 3250 fs. |
| 42 gr. | 4064 | 55 gr. | 3100 fs. |
| 45 gr. | 4350 | 55 gr. | 3350 fs. |
| 39 gr. | Hivel 2. | 55 gr. | 3500 fs. (?) |
| 39 gr. | 3031 | 55 gr. | 3450 fs. |
| .30–60 | (Springfield and Winchester rifles with .308 barrels. Bullets were sized to .311.) | | |
| 24 gr. | 4198 | 97 gr. | 2050 fs. |
| 30 gr. | 4198 | 97 gr. | 2380 fs. |
| 40 gr. | 4198 | 97 gr. | 2920 fs. |
| 56, 57, 58 gr. | 4320 | 97 gr. | Tested by A. H. Barr |
| .30–60 | (Enfield and Remington .30 caliber rifles with .311 barrels. Bullets were sized to .311.) | | |
| 45 gr. | 4198 | 97 gr. | 3200 fs. |
| 52 gr. | 4320 | 97 gr. | 2900 fs.* |
| 53 gr. | 4320 | 97 gr. | 2950 fs.* |
| 54 gr. | 4320 | 97 gr. | 3000 fs.* |
| 55 gr. | 4320 | 97 gr. | 3050 fs.* |
| 56 gr. | 4320 | 97 gr. | 3150 fs.* |
| 57 gr. | 4320 | 97 gr. | 3200 fs.* |
| 58 gr. | 4320 | 97 gr. | 3395 fs.** |
| 59 gr. | 4320 (losing accuracy) | 97 gr. | 3450 fs.** |
| 60.5 gr. | 4320 (too hot?) | 97 gr. | 3500 fs. (?) |
| 58 gr. | 4064 | 97 gr. | 3150 fs. |
| .300 Holland and Holland Magnum (.308 Barrel) | | | |
| 60 gr. | 3031 | 97 gr. | 3400 fs. |
| 60 gr. | Hivel 2 | 97 gr. | 3350 fs. |
| .30–40 Krag | | | |
| 35 gr. | 4198 | 97 gr. | 3000 fs. |
| .303 British | (M 95 Winchester) | | |
| 35 gr. | 4198 | 100 gr. | 3000 fs. |
| .38 W.C.F. (.38–40, M 92 Winchester rifle) | | | |
| 23 gr. | 2400 | 109 gr. | 1950** |
| 24 gr. | 2400 | 109 gr. | 2000* |
| 26 gr. | 2400 | 109 gr. | 2200* |

Loads which have been chronographed are marked **. Velocities estimated from chronographed tests are marked *. All other loads have been estimated as to velocity, by trajectory tests. These loads have produced at least 2½-inch groups at 100 yards and 5-inch groups at 200—some of them much better. ◆ ◆ ◆




# bookkeeping for clubs

*By* W. C. STRAUGHAN

*Every club requires club financial records. How to establish such records is usually a problem to newly elected secretaries and to secretaries of newly organized clubs. The following article appears to have the answers to some questions asked by these secretaries.*

*The bookkeeping system suggested here is not intended to replace records or bookkeeping systems already established by going clubs, or clubs owning equipment and property. Such organizations will need a more extensive system. This article does contain some excellent ideas for new clubs.*—EDITOR.

IN THE BEGINNING let me make clear that I am not a bookkeeper. This system was evolved out of dire necessity when our club records showed that we were bankrupt and common sense told us that we should have had a nice cash balance on hand. We do not have a bookkeeper in the club, so the following may or may not meet the whole-hearted approval of a C.P.A. It certainly has worked for our club.

First in order is a visit to the dime store where the necessary books will probably be found. They consist of one "Day Book," one "Scholastic Roll Book," and one "Composition Book" (not loose-leaf). A large Manila envelope or expanding file is also desirable. The Day Book is used to record every transaction involving the receipt of cash or the paying out of cash for any purpose whatsoever. The Roll Book serves a dual purpose—it lists attendance at club meetings and provides a positive check on ammo sales and receipts. The Composition Book is used only for recording the minutes of business meetings or any other information that may be desirable to record. The expanding file is used to contain all correspondence, canceled checks, and receipted bills. One other item that we have found to be highly desirable is a cash box. Our club secretary uses a surplus .50 caliber ammo box, which makes a perfect cash box.

We have a rule that all club money shall be kept either in the cash box or in the bank. This practice is extremely important. We also require the secretary to deposit promptly in the bank all cash over ten dollars that may accumulate in the cash box. This is to protect both the club and the secretary in the event of loss of the cash box due to fire or theft. The secretary also pays all bills over one dollar by check only so as to have proof of all expenditures.

Two columns opposite each name in the Roll Book are dated and used for each meeting. The first is used to check the attendance or absence of each member. The second is used to record the number of boxes of ammo purchased by him. This takes only an instant and can be done as each member buys his ammo. The regular roll call will catch those members who are present but who bought no ammo. At the end of the meeting, a quick run down each column will show both total attendance and total ammo sales. Then the total of ammo sales is multiplied by the cost per box, in our case thirty cents. *Put these figures down.* We will come back to them shortly. From this page the secretary can quickly determine not only the attendance of each member but the quantity of ammo he purchased over any given period of time.

The record of ammo sales should be entered near the back of the Roll Book by boxes, not rounds. When the page is started the total number of boxes of ammo on hand is entered in the "On Hand" column. All subsequent receipts of ammo are also recorded in this column. Say the total ammo sales at the meeting of January seventh was eleven boxes. This date and the eleven boxes, already entered under "Attendance and Ammo Sales" in the front of the book, are then recorded in the "Sales" column in the back of the book. All subsequent sales are recorded in the same way. The secretary can now provide the club with the information as to the total ammo sales to date and the quantity remaining on hand almost on a moment's notice. An inventory of the ammo case will quickly verify the records or show the secretary where to look for the error.

Now for the Day Book. There are two columns on each page, "Cash Received" and "Cash Paid Out." The "Cash Balance on Hand" from the preceding page is entered under the date of, say, January seventh, as "Cash Brought Forward," and is entered in the "Cash Received" column. The ammo sales entered on the various dates should check perfectly with the figures in the Roll Book and in the Record of Ammo Sales. As the purchase and sale of ammo represents by far the largest items of cash paid out and cash received, it was purposely designed to have a three-way check on this item. Any error found in the ammunition inventory can be surely traced down. A trial balance of the books can be had at any time by subtracting the total "Paid Outs" from the total "Cash Received." In any case this balance will be had at the bottom of each page. To verify it, simply add the club's bank balance to the cash in the cash box. The money and the figures should be equal. If they are not, the error is discovered immediately, not at the end of the year. Another thing, if the cash balance of the club begins to drop, the fact will be known at least at the end of each page, and the secretary can notify the Executive Committee before the club gets into financial hot water. ♦ ♦ ♦

# REGIONAL ROUND-UP

WAYNE MOORE'S SENSATIONAL WIN of the 1947 small-bore crown (see page 13), making him the second ever to score consecutive national rifle titles, came as a logical wind-up to the eighteen pre-Perry regionals staged during the summer months. In many of the eighteen area shoots, old timers repeated past victories to point up the trend against new faces taking high honors in top flight competition. Once more, U. S. rifle and pistol events have borne out the idea that, once a man develops the kind of skill necessary to win in championship company, he is apt to stay in that company for a long time.

The record for regional rifle competition fell as small boresman Les St. Clair of Gresham, Oregon topped by one point

**A COOK'S TOUR OF 1947'S LOCAL FINALS . . . THE EIGHTEEN REGIONAL RIFLE AND PISTOL EVENTS**

the old record for the championship small bore course, set at Camp Perry, 1939, by Minnesota's Vere Hamer. St. Clair's total of 3193 for the eight-match aggregate is one point over the old record.

Among the pistol shooters, none matched the record score for the aggregate set last year by Al Hemming of Detroit. The rotund handgun wizard's 1946 total of 1746 remained unshaken throughout the handgun regionals. Nearest was a 1744, fired at Quantico by Harry Reeves, and the second-placing 1742 of Marine Walter Walsh, who took the title because Reeves was ineligible for the Eastern crown.

Here are the details of the eighteen regional events:

*Far Western Small Bore:* At Richmond, California, Robert E. Perkins repeated his 1946 win by topping the field of nearly 100 competitors at the July 4-6 contest for the Far West regional title. With a cold, windy week-end contributing unpleasant conditions for the matches, the Fresno smallboresman tallied 3150 in the aggregate to finish with a thirteen point margin over Herbert H. Kirby of South Gate, California. Perkins took an early lead in the tournament and by the end of the second day had the title cinched, holding a seven point margin over his nearest competitor. The events were fired on the municipal rifle range at Richmond, California.

*Eastern Small Bore:* The Four Horsemen of middle Atlantic small bore competition were in the saddle again at Altoona, Pennsylvania, when Bill Schweitzer, Ransford Triggs, Wayne Moore, and Dave Carlson finished one-two-three-four in the Eastern regional championships. Schweitzer's score in the July 4-6 matches, fired on the Fort Roberdeau range of the Altoona Rifle and Pistol Club, totalled 3182 for the aggregate, with Triggs trailing him by only one point. Moore was right behind Triggs with 3180. Dave Carlson, trying his hand at Altoona prior to his own Northeastern regional matches, finished two points below Moore, with 3178. Approximately 170 shooters fired in the three-day meet at Altoona, which was marred only by a tricky wind.

*Midwestern Small Bore:* Kansas City's Dick Dorian acquired the Midwestern rifle regional championship in a close win over Ralph Travis of Waterloo, Iowa, 3182 to 3181, in the July 5-6 firing on the new National Guard range at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Dorian, who failed to take a first place in the eight-match regional aggregate, gained the high total score solely on the basis of consistency—that ingredient which so often pays off in the small bore game. An even hundred riflemen competed for the Midwest regional title.

*North Central Small Bore:* Sporting-goods dealer Sam Bond of New Philadelphia, Ohio, topped the field at Mt. Gilead by turning in a 3183 aggregate total for the North Central regional crown. Nearest to Bond of the 179 competitors who registered for the July 12-13 meet was Cleveland's Bill Patriquin, with 3177. In show position, two points behind Patriquin, was Ernest Pels of Cincinnati.

*Southwestern Small Bore:* In the firing for the southwestern area crown, staged July 11-13, R. C. Pope of Dallas easily captured the regional title when he scored 3173 with 188 X's over the eight-event course. Pope proved his domination of southwest competition once again as he topped high expert E. F. Pope of Lubbock, Texas by a four point margin. The matches were fired in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

*Northeastern Small Bore:* After a year of inactivity, Dave Carlson of New Haven broke his way into top flight competition again with an easy win of the Northeastern small bore title, after having fired over the course at Altoona for a fourth place finish. Cinching the championship aggregate with 3181 points and a 132 X-count, Carlson chalked up a seven point victory over fellow townsman J. J. Crowley. The events attracted 124 shooters to the Blue Trail Rifle Range at East Wallingford, Connecticut.

*Northwestern Small Bore:* In a field dominated by Colorado small boresmen, Salt Lake City resident George R. Barcus copped high honors in the Northwest's regional tourney with a match aggregate of 3160 and 165 X's. Runner-up to Barcus, with an equal number of points but six fewer hits in the X-ring, was William J. Patterson, another Salt Laker. High point of Barcus' performance was a 20X target at 50 yards, with 19 of them in the sort of groups you would expect to see at 50 feet, not at 50 yards. Sixty-seven shooters fired in the matches, held on the Fort Douglas range near Salt Lake City.

**By far the most elaborate layout used for regional events was the Elysian Park range in Los Angeles. This photo shows the double-decker firing line**

*Southeastern Small Bore:* The 1947 Southeastern regional matches turned out to be the best attended in years, with 91 competitors trying out the new range of the Volunteer Rifle and Pistol Club at Knoxville. As a surprise ending for the tournament, 19-year-old Audrey Richard of Tallahassee, Florida, trimmed the field to become one of the few women shooters ever to carry off a regional title. Her 3165 outclassed the second place score of Gilbert Humphreville, the South Carolina state champion, by eight points. Veteran Charlie Hamby, twice a regional winner, went down with nine points fewer than Miss Richard's aggregate total.

*Pacific Northwest Small Bore:* In the final meet of the 1947 regional small bore schedule, young Les St. Clair, Jr., of Gresham, Oregon, won the Pacific Northwest's regional title over 105 small-borers, eking out a win over Mickey Johnson of Seattle. The two tied over the aggregate course with 3193's, but St. Clair was able to beat out Johnson on the X count, 231 to 228, for a new national record. The events were fired at Camp Withecombe, near Clackamas, Oregon.

*Midwestern Pistol:* The handgun regionals started off with a surprising turn, when a top-flight small-bore shooter carried away the Midwestern title. V. J. Tiefenbrunn of St. Louis, Missouri, long-time Western Cartridge Company man and a front ranker on the .22 caliber rifle lines for years, turned in high aggregate tally for the regional pistol championships. His 1687 for the eight match course topped the scores of a field of 88 who registered for the events fired on the range of the Scott County Sportsmen's Association at Davenport, Iowa. Runner-up to "Tief" in the June 20-22 tournament was Capt. W. B. Kirkpatrick, Topeka, Kansas, with 1683.

*Southeastern Pistol:* For the South Atlantic states handgun title, Jerry Fontanella of Miami Beach plastered his competition in the Jacksonville matches, fired June 26-29, with an aggregate total of 1691. Fourteen points behind Fontanella was another Miamian, Paul M. Baker, with a second-placing 1677. The events were staged on the range of the Duval Pistol Club of Jacksonville, and attracted 117 pistoleers, including a contingent of Havana civilians and Cuban National Police.

*Northeastern Pistol:* On the Albany range of the New York Central Athletic Association's rifle and revolver club, where the New England states title was fought out, Vermonter J. J. Fell turned up a 1683 to win, with J. R. Herron of Schnectady placing second, four points under Fell's total. The June 28-29 matches drew 108 competitors.

*Eastern Pistol:* As usual, the Quantico events, which have become an annual Marine-sponsored affair, drew most of the hotshot competition, regardless of region. Ex-Marine Harry Reeves, only three-time national title winner, showed up and, as usual, smeared his competition, even though he was ineligible for the title win—this time with a 1744 total for the course. The Eastern title went to Marine Lt. Colonel Walter R. Walsh, who dogged Reeves' footsteps to turn in a score only two points under the Detroiter's. Another Walsh (Mark, representing the New York Police) turned in a 1714 aggregate but, like Reeves, was ineligible for regional honors. Place position went to a 1707, chalked up by Chambersburg, Pennsylvania's George Lyon. A record 216 competitors participated in the events, which were staged over the Fourth of July week-end.

*Pacific Northwest Pistol:* Melton R. Rogers, ace pistolman of Bellingham, Washington, and member of the Treasury Department pistol team, won the Pacific Northwestern handgun title during the July 5-6 matches at the Butte Creek Range, Raymond, Washington. Rogers carried away the lion's share of individual honors during the two-day shoot. In piling up his aggregate tally, Rogers took the .22, .38, and .45 championships as well as nearly all of the individual medals. Second among the 34 competitors, smallest number at any regional, was Robert A. Schaeffer of Seattle, whose 1680 total was 68 points under Rogers' blazing 1728.

*Far Western Pistol:* Firing on Los Angeles' fabulous Elysian Park handgun range, with its double-decker firing points and Hollywood landscaping, ol' man Emmett Jones, Los Angeles Police team member who has been pacing West Coast pistoleers for longer than he likes to remember, turned in a near-record 1741 to trim the field at the July 11-13 regional events. Jones managed to hold a comfortable lead over regional entrants, who totalled 109 for the 1947 firings. In place position was Quentin T. Brooks, Richmond, Cal., with 1735.

*Southwestern Pistol:* Any time Charlie Densford and Jesse Woody show up for a shootin' match, fireworks are a foregone conclusion. True to form, the two ace pistolmen battled it out for the Southwestern regional win, which went on the block during the week-end of July 4th, on the range of the Caddo Rifle and Pistol Club at Shreveport, Louisiana. In the .22 and .38 events which made up the regional aggregate, Densford, who came in from the AAF base at Hobbs, New Mexico, trimmed Texan Woody, 1714 to 1705. Honors were fairly divided among the two when Woody broke ahead in the .45 events to run up a 2540 total for the three calibers, topping Densford by five points. Sixty-seven pistol shooters competed in the matches.

*Northwestern Pistol:* Firing on the Camp George West range at Denver, July 18-20, climaxed local pistol events when J. W. Aitken of Overly, North Dakota trimmed the field for the Northwestern regional title. In outdistancing the 54 competitors entered, Aitken turned in an 818 total with the .38 and 839 with the small caliber handgun to gross a winning aggregate of 1657 points. Harold F. Flanders, Denver Pistol Expert, took second in the regional race.

*North Central Pistol:* In the final event of the regional handgun series, Huelet Benner of Ft. Knox, Ky., pulled the upset of the season by trimming Harry Reeves and Al Hemming, Detroit's triple-threat boys, for the regional title of the North Central area. Benner's 1741 total for the .22 and .38 events topped the score posted by Hemming by seven points, and left Reeves trailing by an even wider margin. In all, 63 entrants registered for the regional championship event, which was fired at the range of the Jackson, Mich., Police Department, on July 19-20.

Where does this leave the national pistol championship? As we go to press, the favorites are the same warhorses who have dominated the handgun events at Perry in the last two or three firings of the nationals . . . Reeves, Walsh, Jones, Benner. By the time this issue of THE RIFLEMAN reaches readers, there will have been news of the handgun Nationals in your local papers . . . and a complete story on the pistol events will be carried in the October RIFLEMAN. ♦ ♦ ♦

# I'll Take the .348

*By* FRANCIS E. SELL

## . . . A RIFLE TO STAND THE ROUGH AND TUMBLE OF WILDERNESS HUNTING

A RIFLE to live up to the robust tradition of the mighty Winchester 86 Model must be a hunter's rifle; one which can stand all the rough-and-tumble of wilderness hunting without requiring too much attention. Such a rifle is the Model 17 Winchester .348.

The manner in which many outdoor writers dismiss the .348 as a short-range timber rifle of only fair accuracy is startling to a rifleman who has had any extended experience with this rifle. Their rather snide attitude betrays something other than familiarity with the Model 71.

In considering this rifle, it might be well to define accuracy and range. Just what is an accurate rifle? What is a long-range rifle? I assume that the range at which a rifle will kill consistently when the hunter does his part is the maximum range for that rifle. Any time the rifleman is more dependent on luck than skill for a hit, he is naturally exceeding the range of his rifle, assuming that his skill is great enough to go beyond the limits of the rifle's range.

This, for the longest range rifles capable of being fired from the shoulder, is around 300 yards. There are rifles which are capable of wounding game at a greater range than that. But for a rifle which carries enough bullet weight to actually kill cleanly on big game, a range of 300 yards is maximum on such species as elk or moose.

We might take as a yardstick the .300 Magnum. This rifle is an excellent 300-yard game rifle. When using the 220 grain bullet with the rifle sighted in to hit point of aim at 200 yards, the bullet strikes eleven inches below point of aim. How does the .348 compare with this? The nearest bullet weight to the 220 grain .300 Magnum loading is the 200 grain .348. When the Model 71 is sighted to hit point of aim at 200 yards, the bullet will strike just sixteen inches below at 300. This is a difference of only five inches, hardly to be noticed in the game field.

It can be assumed that any rifle which is accurate enough to take full advantage of its killing range should be classified as an accurate game rifle. For, after all, that is the practical field test which all rifles must stand. Can the .348 qualify on this score? I believe that there have been more diverse reports on the accuracy of the .348 than on any other caliber, with the possible exception of the .30-'06. Plenty of rifle accuracy has been established by reporting selected groups from heavy-barreled target rifles. Such groups, when taken as an indication of the possibilities of a heavy rifle with ammunition fitted to it, are interesting data. But when such groups are taken as an indication of *all* rifles of that certain caliber, they can be very misleading. This has occurred quite frequently in the past, especially with the .30-'06.

The .348 will compare favorably with any sporting rifle of comparable weight when shooting factory ammunition. It is capable of shooting within two-inch groups at 100 yards. At 300 yards, the practical limits of its range in the big-game field, I have shot eight- and nine-inch groups with it regularly. So, it would seem obvious that from both the standpoint of range and accuracy, the .348 qualifies as a big-game rifle.

But that is the least of its virtues. The heart of a hunter's rifle is the action. The Model 71 quite definitely qualifies here. It has one of the smoothest actions of any manually operated arm. Even among lever actions, its smoothness is outstanding. A flick of the lever and the empty is ejected after firing. When the lever is again raised, the rifle is ready to fire. All this can be accomplished with the hunter keeping his eye on the game, for there is no canting of the rifle in reloading and no hand above the barrel to interfere with the hunter's vision.

The trigger pull is capable of a much finer adjustment than that of any bolt-action rifle which I have ever used. The Model 71 can carry a short crisp pull of three and one-half pounds with perfect safety, which is about a pound lighter than the factory recommends for the Model 70 bolt action.

The .348 comes with the best set of factory sights of any rifle which I have ever used. Fact of the matter is, the Model 71 is the only rifle which comes with factory sights suitable for hunting. The rear sight sits directly upon the bolt. It is adjustable for windage and elevation. The neatness of this sight is something to be remarked on.

For brush hunting the disk can be removed from the rear sight and a perfect, large aperture remains. With the front sight, it forms one of the fastest snap-shooting combinations which I have used, even

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faster than the conventional tang peep. For the happy compromise of distance from the eye, coupled with the large aperture when the disk is removed, is such that the eye invariably finds the front sight through it instantly.

The rear sight has a virtue which is seldom pointed out, and it is one which I consider very important in snap shooting. The solid base of the rear sight, directly under the aperture, allows no distracting light below the sight as is the case with most receiver sights.

The stocking of the rifle is such that when the rifle is brought to the shoulder in snap shooting, there is very little in the way of sight aligning to be accomplished. There is enough weight to the arm so that its inertia tends to check any movement during that all-important instant in which the hunter gets off his shot. That is important in a hunting rifle. My Model 71 weighs an even nine pounds, empty.

We have considered the virtues of the Model 71 at length because we think they are the essentials which make an excellent game rifle. But, after all, the ultimate test of a rifle is made in the game field. Many hunters labor under the impression that the .348 is needlessly powerful for deer. But for most deer covers, especially where the deer must be anchored with one shot or it is likely to be claimed by another hunter, a little extra killing power often pays dividends.

In the 200 grain bullet there is a happy compromise between velocity and bullet weight. It has an initial velocity of 2520 feet a second—not fast enough to cause it to be greatly deflected by a limb or twig, but fast enough so that it is not necessary to hold over at average game ranges. Sighted in to hit point of aim at 100 yards, it shoots .8 inch above the line of sight at fifty and 6.5 inches below at 200. My experience convinces me that at reasonable ranges it will kill all game, up to and including elk, cleanly.

I use the 200 grain bullet almost entirely. My last four deer taken with this caliber were killed with the 200 grain soft point. The shooting was done at average woods ranges. The shortest shot was taken at thirty-five yards, the longest at 150.

But before we consider some of this field shooting, it would be well to clear up two objections which are voiced often against tubular magazine rifles. The first is about the disadvantage which the rifleman experiences because the point of balance is changed with each shot levered out of the magazine! Brother, that is something! I have always believed that balance is very essential in a rifle, especially one used for game shooting. But when it is seriously contended that a rifle is thrown out of balance because the cartridges are moved to the rear in loading, I am beat. One might say that the weight of any rifle being changed as the magazine is emptied greatly handicaps the hunter.

**There is no canting in reloading**

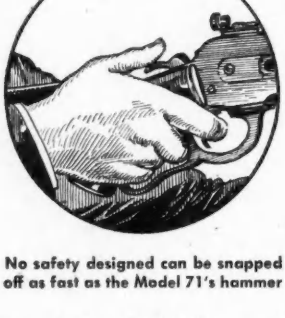
The other great objection is that the blunt-nosed bullet does not maintain velocity. There is some legitimate excuse for such a statement, but not much. It is subject to a lot of qualification. Let us take the .270 caliber 130 grain loading as a yardstick (it has an excellent spitzer point) and compare the .348 bullets to it.

| *Bullet Cal. and weight* | *Muzzle Velocity* | *Velocity at 100 yds.* | *Velocity loss* | *Velocity at 200 yds.* | *Velocity loss* | *Velocity at 300 yds.* | *Velocity loss* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| .270 130 gr. | 3140 | 2820 | 320 ft. | 2530 | 290 ft. | 2260 | 270 ft. |
| .348 200 gr. | 2520 | 2160 | 360 ft. | 1840 | 320 ft. | 1560 | 270 ft. |
| .348 250 gr. | 2320 | 2046 | 274 ft. | 1793 | 253 ft. | 1566 | 227 ft. |

The total velocity loss of each bullet over 300 yards range is: 130 grain .270 spitzer point, 880 f.s.; 200 grain .348 round nose, 960 f.s.; 250 grain .348 round nose, 754 f.s.

The 130 grain spitzer-pointed bullet has just eight feet less velocity loss over 300 yards than the 200 grain round nose, or about the same as the velocity variation from shot to shot shown in factory loadings. The 250 grain over the same range shows that it lost 126 f.s. less than the 130 grain .270 spitzer point. So, it would appear that the spitzer point is not too important in retaining velocity. Once the bullet arrives at the game, the round-pointed bullet will give the most consistent performance. It will drive through to give a deep, sure wound under almost all circumstances.

In the field, the .348 always has turned in just a little better performance than one expects. On those shots which must be taken or lost within a fraction of a second, it is an excellent performer. I doubt if there ever has been a rifle designed which can be brought into action faster than the outside-hammer Winchester. Snap the Model 71 to your shoulder and, if you have had any great amount of experience with it, you instinctively press down the hammer, subconsciously making it ready to fire.



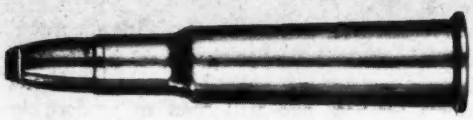
**No safety designed can be snapped off as fast as the Model 71's hammer**

The conventional safety on the bolt action is slow and awkward in comparison. Fact of the matter is, there is no safety designed which can be snapped off as fast as the hammer of the Model 71 can be pressed down as the gun is snapped to the shoulder.

Last autumn while hunting deer, I had an experience which illustrates the fast-handling qualities of this rifle. My partner and I were working out an overgrown logging slash. There was plenty of fresh sign, but the cover was so heavy with a mat of small growth which came almost shoulder high that putting up a deer and getting a shot would be almost an impossible task. About halfway across the slash, my partner put out a three-pointer. The deer angled away from him, but afforded no chance for a shot. Its progress was easily marked by the violent shaking of the cover, but neither of us were able to see the game. Fifty yards in front of me, and directly in the path of the deer, lay a large windfall fully four feet in diameter. I knew that the deer would clear the cover in going over the big felled tree. It was the only chance for a shot either of us would get. That was apparent.

Such shooting is as clean-cut as the quick draw with a revolver. The rifleman must know just about what to expect. He must anticipate the game's position at the time of firing, and arrive at that point with his sights aligned the same instant the game arrives.

That is something of the skill involved. But to a greater



Winchester's old lever actions made history, and many a rifleman became hunting wise with the feel of one in his hands. In the early 1930's the Winchester lever-action adherents found themselves without anything which would take care of big game with modern dispatch. Winchester announced the Model 71 in 1936 to bring their lever-action line up to date. A new cartridge was designed around modern smokeless powder for use in this particular rifle.

The new cartridge was at first named the .34 W.C.F. but, before ammunition was released for sale, the company decided to follow the popular three-digit trend in caliber designations and officially rebaptized it the .348 W.C.F., which dimension is the Model 71 groove diameter. The Model 71 still remains the only commercial rifle chambered for this cartridge.

The .348 W.C.F. proved to be popular for hunting big game found on the American continent. It is a good killer on deer and is considered adequate for the largest game, such as Alaskan Brown Bear, when in the hands of a hunter who can place a chest shot.

In a lever-action rifle the .348 is by no means a long-range load, but it is capable of five-inch groups at 200 yards in the Model 71. The Model 71 is an excellent rifle for hunting in brush or timber country where quick shots are sometimes necessary. The blunt 200 grain bullet will find its way through brush where a light and higher-velocity bullet will go to pieces or be deflected from its course.

The ammunition companies have all loaded both the 150 grain and 200 grain bullets in the .348 W.C.F. In addition to this Peters has listed a 210 grain belted bullet and Western a 250 grain Silvertip. The muzzle velocities and muzzle energies for the various bullets indicate the power which the Model 71 can deliver are: 150 grain —2880 f.p.s. and 2765 ft. lbs., 200 grain—2520 f.p.s. and 2820 ft. lbs., 210 grain—2510 f.p.s. and 2850 ft. lbs., 250 grain—2320 f.p.s. and 2980 ft. lbs.

extent the shot depends on rifle design, balance, and all those intangibles which go to make up a rifle that a hunter uses just as naturally as he would use his good right arm.

I snapped the rifle to my shoulder just as the game cleared the cover. I saw it was legal. It floated up and into my sights without any great effort on my part. I had the satisfaction of seeing it collapse in mid-air. When it dropped, it scarcely moved—a clean humane kill.

This shot was taken in the short fraction of time the game was in sight, a pure snap shot. It is an indication of the flexibility of this caliber. For it will take them equally well: deer out around 200 to 250 yards and elk out to 300 yards.

Another shot worth reporting was fired at a deer moving at a trot along a steep hill. The shooting was done from about 150 yards. This, obviously, is not long range. But the conditions under which it was done is typical of a lot of shooting which the average hunter does, much more so than the extremely long-range shots which frequently are reported. The deer was visible between patches of fireweed as it moved along the hill. Three shots were fired before the game fell.

Examination showed that any one of the three would have been fatal. The three had made a pattern behind the shoulder which could be covered with the palm of my hand. The exit wound was one large hole about three inches in diameter. The heart was completely destroyed.

That shooting had to be done in the small fraction of time the deer exposed itself in the small openings. There are two elements which it is well to consider. The first is the small fraction of time a rifleman has to make such shots. The second is the accuracy demanded of a rifle to lay them in, even at the modest range of 150 yards. These two elements are about equally dependent upon caliber, stocking, and action.

What kind of a performance does the .348 turn in on elk? Incidentally, elk are usually taken at about the same average woods ranges as are deer. Of the sixty head which my partner and I jumped last fall, none were put up at over seventy-five yards. Occasionally a shot may be obtained at longer ranges on some of the more open territory, but they are the exception and not the rule.

Examined in the light of these ranges, the .348 is superior to most rifles, due to its fast-handling qualities. At the longer ranges up to 300 yards, it is equal to the average field run of elk rifles such as the .30-'06 because it throws more lead than they throw.

Probably the best loading for elk is the 250 grain Silvertip. This bullet ambles along at 2320 feet a second. When sighted in to hit point of aim at 200 yards, it is only about 4.2 inches above line of sight at 100 yards, and about seventeen inches below at 300 yards. On game as large as elk, the size of the target will compensate for the drop of the bullet over the longer ranges to about 250 yards, even if no allowance is made for the amount the front sight subtends at these longer ranges. At the extreme ranges of 300 yards, it is necessary to hold only slightly higher on the shoulder to obtain a killing hit.

While the 250 grain loading is perhaps the best for elk, the 200 grain is an excellent compromise for the hunter who likes to use one weight of hunting bullet for all game. The 200 grain has sufficient weight to insure deep penetration, and is slightly flatter over a 300-yard range.

The only bad loading in the .348 is the 150 grain bullet. While I have noticed several rifle experts recommending this load as being the best for deer, my experience with it will not let me agree with them. There is nothing the 150 grain will do on deer which the 200 grain will not do better. There are many things which the heavier bullet will do which the 150 grain cannot do. The most important of these is brush cutting.

All in all, it just about simmers down to this: The .348 Model 71 has an action which has been field tested over a greater length of time than any other commonly used action. It is an offspring of the fine old Model 86. That was a hunter's rifle if there ever was one! And from my own experience with the Model 71, I know that this offspring is not going to disgrace its Pappy in the game fields. ● ● ●

## Grooming the Garand for Perry

*(Continued from page 12)*

pressure at these points when the gun is cool, it will be relieved as the barrel heats, and the change of conditions will change the location of the shots on the target.

Two more points at which a tight fit is detrimental to accuracy are those marked B, where the ends of the upper band guard are held by the gas cylinder and the lower band respectively. The upper band guard should be free enough for longitudinal play to be felt easily when it is pushed forward and backward by hand. It should also be quite free over the barrel and operating rod so that there is no chance for the wood to make contact with either of these parts.

The gas cylinder must have quite a snug fit on the barrel at the point C and must leave a clearance at the rear end where the ring fits over the barrel at the forward one of the two points marked B. Any absence of a proper gas seal between the barrel splines and the mating portion of the gas cylinder at point C can be overcome by plating the barrel with hard bronze or nickel. The ring at the rear end of the gas cylinder that surrounds the barrel should have at least .001 inch clearance. It is preferable to have this loose enough so that a strip of thin paper can be passed between this ring and the barrel.

The lower band should be fixed quite firmly to the barrel. Clearance between the lower band and operating rod at point D should be such that there is no binding contact between the band and rod as the rod is driven to the rear.

For best accuracy, the action should be firmly bedded in the stock. A tightly locking trigger guard should draw the rear end of the receiver down to rest firmly on the slightly raised flat portion of the stock at that point.

That portion of the stock inletting designed to accommodate the recoil shoulders of the receiver should provide balanced support and should not permit any lateral movement. Selection of stocks or possibly the use of shims would correct most cases of this nature.

The urgent necessity for the utmost speed in wartime production has sometimes resulted in rear sights having too much play for best target accuracy. Any excess clearance between aperture and rear sight base can be corrected by plating with hard bronze or nickel.

The time required for the hammer to fall is about the same as the lock time in the 1903 Springfield, or about .0057 second. However, a sharper hammer blow will give faster and more uniform ignition, and will tend to produce smaller groups. The present mainspring can be replaced to give more tension and hence a smarter hammer blow, which will result in faster ignition and lock time, which is conducive to accuracy. It is also an advantage to the shooter to have an extremely short time elapse between trigger pressure and primer indentation. Obviously the disarrangement of aim can be kept to a minmum with faster hammer fall.

The occasional "long trigger pull" may be corrected through the use of a stone in the hands of a trained armorer or gunsmith. Rather than the sear, it is the dressing of the front hammer hooks that removes M1 "creep."

If a star gauge is available, the point to look for is any slight tightness of the groove diameter right at the muzzle. This may occur in manufacture as the rifling head wears, and is not good for the accuracy. If any such constriction does exist, it will be in the grooves only and can be removed by careful lapping, taking care to enlarge the groove diameter only and not the land diameter.

It is well to check rifles to see that the forward end of the piston rod clears the gas cylinder lock screw by not less than .05 inch. Insufficient power results if the gas must act on the piston from a chamber less than .05 inch deep. This can be checked by placing a single pellet of B-B shot in the gas cylinder to be compressed by the piston as the action is allowed to slam shut. By measuring the flattened pellet the clearance may be determined.

The points mentioned above cover only a few of the steps that may ultimately be taken to make the M1 rifle into a first-class target instrument. I am confident that it is potentially as accurate as any service rifle ever made, and that with the same care that has been bestowed on the 1903 National Match rifles in the past it can be made to give long-range accuracy that will excel that of any other military arm. ♦ ♦ ♦

## Dream Gun

*(Continued from page 24)*

front sight on a pistol (or revolver) stick up like a squirrel's ear, or that the rear sight be an unsightly (no pun intended) protrusion with as many angles and sharp edges as an old maid's jaw? It ain't pretty, McGee; and it ain't funny, either, when one or the other of those sights snags in a pocket or in a holster just when you need the weapon in a hurry.

Why not a "built in" rear sight (integral with the frame), and a front sight set in and flush with the top of a "sighting groove" cut along a rib on top of the barrel? Or why, for that matter, not make the whole thing a "tunneled" (hollow) rib with adjustable inserts front and rear—somewhat after the fashion of the lensless tube sights used on rifles? Such sights wouldn't snag; and they could be streamlined into the overall shape of the weapon.

(Just for fun, I taped a small black metal tube onto the barrel of one of my pistols and sighted a few strings of shots through it. It was a rough job, and the results were hardly conclusive; but I didn't find the idea basically unsound. Why should it be?)

I'd want a lot of other things in that gun, too: perfection of design, perfection of workmanship, perfection of performance. But these are things I'd just naturally expect to get in any first-class American-made gun. And I can be pretty confident that I *would* get them. They are certainly not beyond the skill of American makers; not even much beyond their present performance. American guns as they are made today equal or excel guns made abroad in excellence of materials, standards of workmanship, and quality of performance. It is only in design—only in the adoption of new ideas—that American makers have been slow. Perhaps that very slowness is an evidence of their wisdom. Or perhaps not.

Be that as it may, American makers will give us the guns we want—if we make our wants known. Here's a rough sketch, subject to change, of mine. What's yours? ♦ ♦ ♦

General George Washington's flintlock holster pistols

Canteen from Admiral Dewey's flagship, the Olympia

A figure familiar to three generations of arms enthusiasts, "Butch" Woelfle has spent 44 years in Bannerman's Broadway store. Racks along the wall hold guns and relics of every United States war from the Revolution to World War II

# FRANCIS BANNERMAN SONS

## IN A LONG, COLORFUL CAREER, THE STORE THAT "INVENTED" GUN COLLECTING HAS SOLD OFF THE LEFTOVERS OF EVERY U. S. GENERAL'S ARMY, FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TO IKE EISENHOWER'S

*Photographs for* THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN *by Richard L. Reish*

GUN COLLECTING might never have gotten its start had an immigrant Scottish salvage dealer not bought the leftovers of the Civil War, and thought up ways of selling them.

In 1865, Francis Bannerman was attending government auction sales with his father. The scrap metal they bought and resold augmented an income from the sale of old rope to New York's papermakers. It was an easy step to dealings in the castoff but serviceable guns and military equipment they picked up. Trading in old rope was gradually forgotten. Before long, Francis Bannerman was finding ready customers for the old guns and swords, the out-of-style uniforms and the military gear which his government was so eager to get out of its hands. As his business grew, Bannerman bought more and more of his adopted country's castoff equipment.

Today, after more than three-quarters of a century of dealing in the souvenirs of changing times, Francis Bannerman's Broadway store is the hub of a fantastic empire of aging military equipment. Into five floors, two basements, three warehouses, and a castle on the Hudson (see next page) Francis Bannerman piled the trophies and supplies of the U. S. Government through decade after decade of war and peace. He bought millions of gun flints, unopened since the day they were packed for shipment to George Washington's troops. He bought the high-peaked saddles and gear of pack camels, left over from the Post Office's attempt to use the animals on Arizona and New Mexico deserts. The waterstained relics of the battleship Maine were piled into warehouses alongside the sleds and ice saws of Peary's Arctic Expedition and the guns and ship's gear of Farragut's *Hartford* and Dewey's *Olympia*. Historic relics vied with piles of more prosaic items —tons of ammunition, guns, bayonets, swords. When he died in 1918, Francis Bannerman had long since lost count of what he owned.

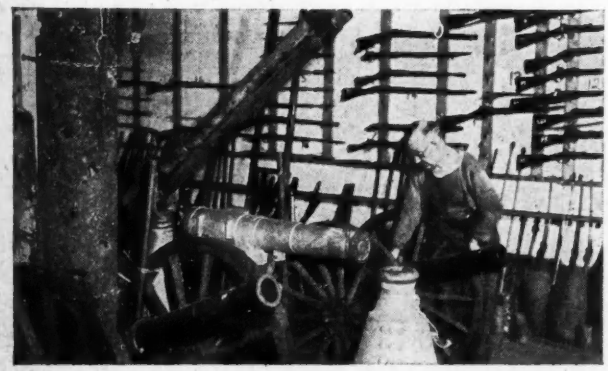
(*Continued on next page*)

The elder Francis Bannerman founded business in 1865, at close of Civil War, with purchase of old swords and muskets for their value as scrap

## FRANCIS BANNERMAN SONS (Continued)

Bannerman's has been at 501 Broadway since 1905. Though only a fraction of the vast stock of supplies is left, the store is still a mecca for collectors of everything from old guns to ancient buttons and insignia

Bannerman's store, with its rows of ancient battle flags, now occupies only front half of street floor. Balance of building is storage space



Bannerman's still has plenty of artillery on hand. Most sales are made to schools and institutions that want cannon for use as lawn decorations

Bannerman's present stock includes these old Colt cap-and-ball revolvers, powder horns, life preservers from battleship Maine, and old ammunition

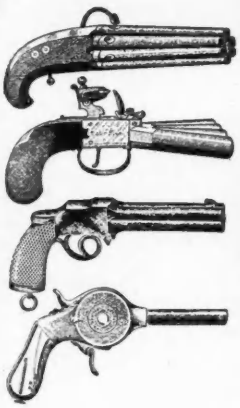
Except for store on street floor, entire building is filled with piles of military equipment. Machine gun in foreground is crank-driven Gatling

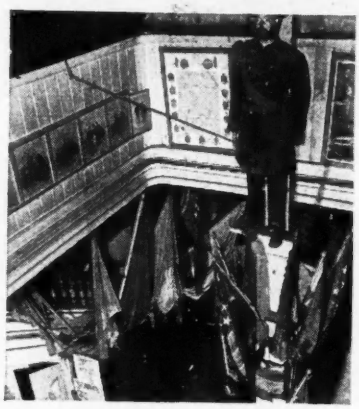
### BANNERMAN'S CATALOG IS STILL "THE BIBLE"

No other book has made as lasting an impression on American shooters as has Bannerman's colorful catalog. From its pages four generations of youngsters have soaked up the lore of firearms, and have fallen victim to the fascination of shooting. Most of them have carried that feeling with them for the rest of their lives.

Like few other things in a changing world, Bannerman's latest (80th Anniversary) catalog differs little from the editions of four decades ago. It is a nostalgic reminder of other days; in some cases even the prices have not changed. The illustrations are as amazing a lot as they were when the elder Bannerman was assembling his vast stock of "bargains from Army auctions." Though most of the rarities were sold years ago, their pictures are still carried faithfully, to the delight of gun collectors.

Basement of Bannerman's is a treasure trove of old military gear. After years of selling, few serviceable or complete weapons are left in the bins





Dummy in uniform of Civil War officer stands guard over Bannerman's array of battle flags

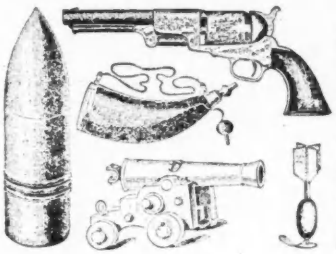
Bannerman's still has many historic relics. With arm resting on the binnacle of the U.S.S. Constellation, David B. Bannerman, present head of firm, holds old Chinese cannon

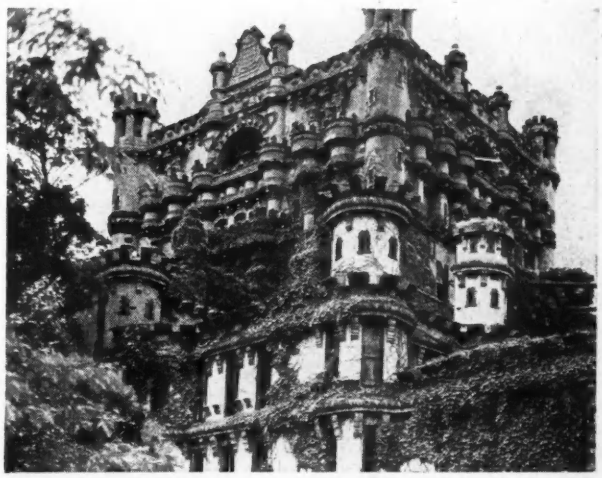
## CURRENTLY, WOMEN ARE BANNERMAN'S BEST CUSTOMERS

As Government methods of clearing up the residues of war have changed, less and less of this country's military gear has found its way into the bins and island warehouse of Bannerman's. But the old store is still a treasurehouse of history. Managed now by David B. Bannerman, son of the elder Bannerman, and a brother-in-law, C. J. Scott, the great old business disperses surprising quantities of the goods bought decades ago by Francis Bannerman. Time and again the old man's theory that anything can be sold if you keep it long enough or find the right person is proving itself anew.

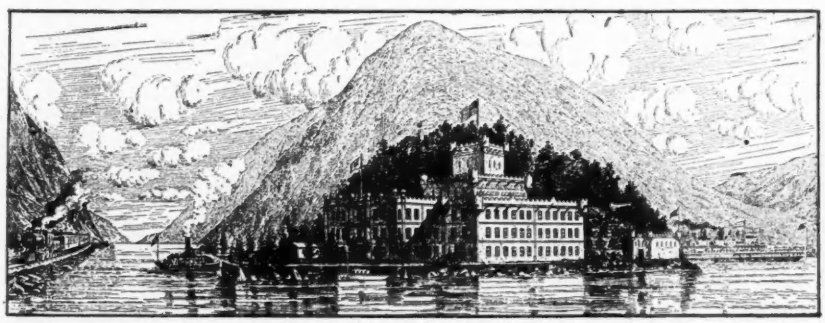
It would amuse the elder Bannerman could he see the latest proof of that theory. A fashion magazine recently proposed the use of Civil War cartridge boxes for women's handbags. Only Bannerman had them. Since the publication of that article, it has become a common event to see one of New York's fairest parading on Fifth Avenue with a handbag tacked together from ancient left-overs out of Bannerman's Broadway store—Civil War cartridge box, Spanish-American War strap, World War I carrying rings, and obsolete National Guard insignia as a decoration.

In years to come, uses will be found for many another item out of the curious assortment that is still preserved at Bannerman's. For the most part, David Bannerman can only guess at what it will be. Old Navy cutlasses, perhaps, for wall decorations. Or ancient bayonets. Bannerman's will be ready for them. There are still plenty of them in stock!

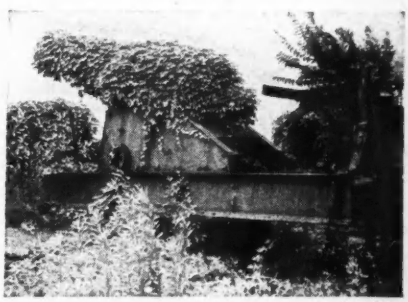




Bannerman's Castle, sixty miles up the Hudson from New York, was built by elder Bannerman as an arsenal for storage of military equipment



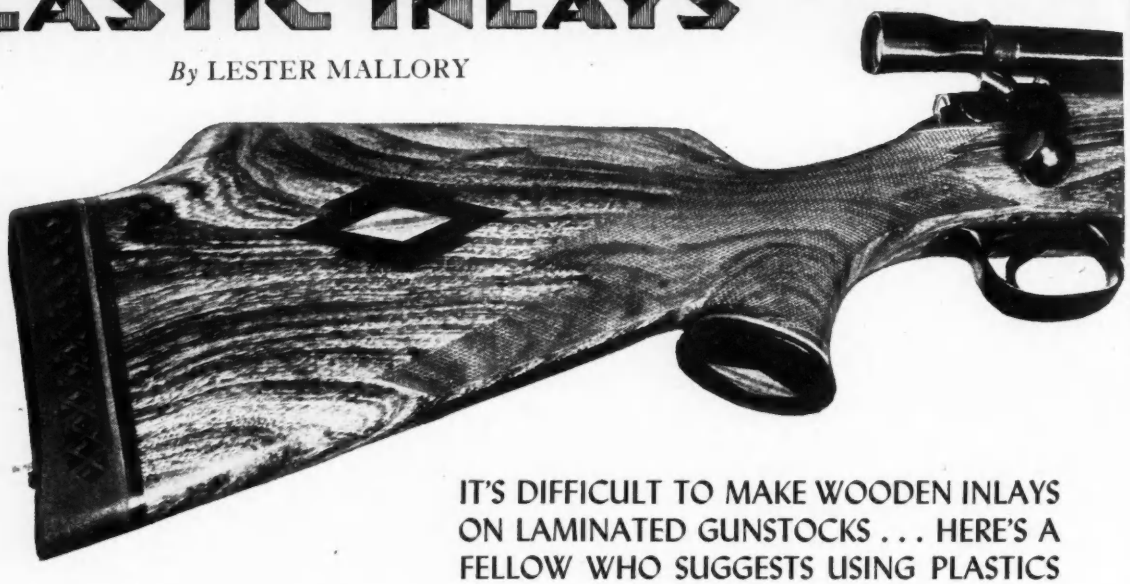
Castle and Bannerman's summer home were built of paving blocks salvaged from New York streets. This engraving, and the line cuts on this and the opposite page, are from Bannerman's 1907 catalog



Ivy-covered gun from Admiral Farragut's flagship is one of few cannon remaining on island. ◆ ◆ ◆

# PLASTIC INLAYS

*By* LESTER MALLORY



**IT'S DIFFICULT TO MAKE WOODEN INLAYS ON LAMINATED GUNSTOCKS . . . HERE'S A FELLOW WHO SUGGESTS USING PLASTICS**

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS I spent odd days in the shop of a gunsmith friend in Arlington, Virginia. During this time a number of conversion jobs came through the shop on which some stock alteration was desired. This work fell to me as he was tied up with the more intricate jobs of gunsmithing. It was surprising how much could be done quickly to a military stock, chiefly by thinning the heel, reducing thickness behind the pistol grip, and installing a good recoil pad. Except for the comb and the curve of the pistol grip, it required little effort to make a fairly attractive job—a job, incidentally, which almost any gun crank could accomplish with tools found in the house.

Among the rifles whose stocks required attention were a number of Mausers. These stocks were worked over, and in each case there was some surprise and satisfaction at the results that came with the final rottenstone buffing. Those eyesores, however, in the shape of holes cut through the stock for the rack lock, and the slot for the sling, remained. Well-fitted wooden inlays to cover these holes were indicated, but the job presented many difficulties. A wooden inlay on a well-figured stock, to be inconspicuous, should be of the same piece of wood. Conversely, it could be of a contrasting wood, as shown on the cover of the December, 1946, AMERICAN RIFLEMAN. Either one would have proved difficult on the wartime Mauser, and much too difficult on a laminated stock. Having neither the material nor the will for such an undertaking, a different approach was adopted. If one could not make a completely uniform or inconspicuous job, why not employ an inlay of an entirely different material? That material was plastic. For anyone interested in trying plastic inlays, the notes below include some do's and several do not's.

The materials I employed were Plexiglas or Lucite sheets and Tenite rods. Plexiglas and Lucite are about the same thing under different brand names. They come in sheets of varying thickness and may be had clear, translucent in a number of colors, and opaque in a few colors. For gunstocks, only opaque black and ivory in three-sixteenth-inch thickness were considered. This, a bow to the convention of buffalo horn and ivory. The Tenite rods were found in a number of diameters; other types of plastic in rod form might do as well. All these can be purchased in most hobby shops stocking plastics. The cost of material for inlays on a single stock should not be over thirty cents. As plastics sell by the pound, you must decide on a design, and figure roughly how much material you will need before you buy.

Plastics are beautiful to work. They cut about as easily as very hard wood, but have no grain. They are softer than soft brass, can be sawed, filed, drilled, tapped, shaped, molded under heat, sanded, polished, and cemented. And each one of these various operations is easy to perform.

The essential points on a laminated stock are, a Tenite plug to fill the hole for the rack lock and a black Lucite inlay to cover up the sling slot.

The steps to be followed in making an inlay are as follows:

Prepare to inlay when the stock has been brought to the desired size and shape, but before final sanding, whiskering, or finishing. The stock can be thinned a good deal. Many a good stock is hidden beneath a beat-up exterior.

Design the inlay first with paper patterns which can be tried for appearance.

With the paper pattern made, moisten and place it upon the protective paper cover of the sheet plastic. Mark the size with a pencil or scribe through onto the plastic itself.

Saw the inlay to approximate size with a coping, jeweler's, or other saw. File to pattern size, using a coarse file (vixen or mill). Bevel the edges to one side slightly. Place inlay on stock, small face down, and mark or scribe the wood.

Carefully carve out the wood to pattern size, beveling slightly and maintaining an even bottom to the depth of three thirty-seconds or one-eighth inch.

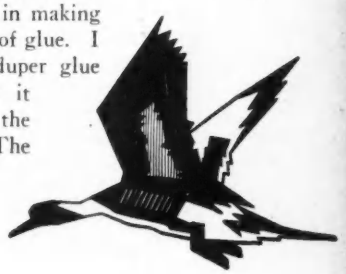
Keep trying the inlay for fit as the stock is cut out. When a tight fit has been accomplished, roughen the inlay with a rasp or very coarse sandpaper. After covering the inlay and the cutout in the stock with du Pont household cement, let the cement set until it becomes tacky. Put enough plastic wood in the cutout to level the bottom. Fit the inlay, clamp it in the cutout under pressure, and allow to set.

File down the excess plastic to wood level and complete finishing the stock. When the wood is rubbed with rottenstone, give the plastic a high finish, but do not heat it by friction.

That's all there is to it, but I learned a number of lessons the hard way, and there are some short cuts. The following hints are important.

Keep the inlays as small as possible. Too large a piece dominates the stock. Avoid compound curves, or, if possible, any curves in the design of an inlay. They are hard to cut and hard to fit. Don't heat the plastic once it is set; for example, by using a buffing wheel on it. To get a good final fit, a trick is to bring the inlay as close to size as convenient, and then mold it into place while hot. Lucite or Plexiglas will bend at 300 degrees Fahrenheit. The kitchen oven will provide the heat. Place the inlay on a piece of wood, heat, and then cup the inlay a little (it's a good idea to use gloves for this), press it into the cutout and form it under pressure immediately. Here again there are some points to be observed. The plastics we are working with have a fairly high coefficient of expansion. Hence, do not heat them more than necessary. Also keep the dimensions of the inlay small, else they will be loose after cooling. These materials also have a plastic "memory." They can be shaped while hot and will set to the shape on cooling, but if reheated they will tend to go back to their original form. Hence, bending into curves may give you trouble later.

Keep the bottom of the cutout as level as possible. The object here is to avoid curves and to get as much bearing, direct bearing, as possible. I have tried hand chisels extensively, but a quick method is with a router bit on a Handee or similar tool. The idea of using plastic wood to get a complete bearing between the bottom of the cutout and inlay grew out of difficulties in making a level cutout and in the type of glue. I had been sold a new super-duper glue which holds anything—only it didn't. I found the ends of the inlays beginning to rise. The cure was to remove them, scrape out all the old glue, and use the plastic wood and du Pont cement.



A sure-fire method of attachment, involving a bit more work, is the following: Cut a second inlay, from a one-sixteenth-inch sheet to fit loosely the bottom of the stock cutout. Fasten this to the wood with countersunk screws. Then simply cement the outside inlay to the inside sheet with plastic solvent, and it's there to stay! Where there are holes through the stock, a plastic rod or staff can be cemented in place for fastening on the opposing inlays. One has seen many a jewel or cigarette box built of cemented pieces. The joints are strong and hardly can be perceived.

Still another method is mechanical fastening. For example, a screw fastening the plastic. I have seen this done with black plastic buttons on a recoil cross bolt. The metal buttons of the cross bolt were cut off, the bolt drilled and tapped, and the machined plastic buttons fastened on by screws.

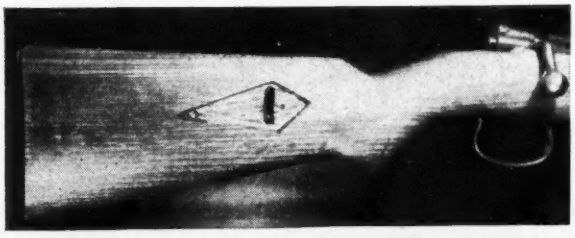
I, however, have done the same job myself more simply with cement, by cutting off the ends of the cross bolt, just leaving it in place, and fillng the outside holes with a plug of white Tenite. Thus, the appearance was improved by a balanced design of white plugs.

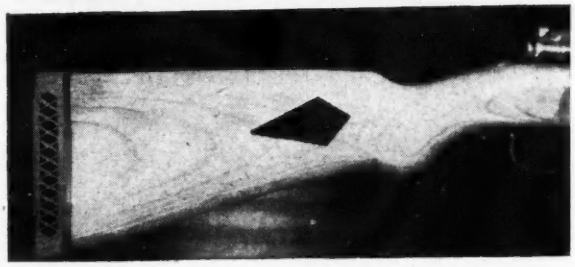
A word of caution is in order, before you attempt anything fancy. Inlays call for a lot of precision fitting and, above all, patience. Don't make the old mistake of being too ambitious on the first attempt. Some simple squares or diamond inlays are tough enough for the first try. Then, when you *know* you've mastered the mechanics of the job, and can be sure of clean lines around those simple forms, and are sure you won't ruin a stock you've spent hours in shaping, try something a little more elaborate.

The stock illustrated at the top of the opposite page is a fair example. It looks simple, but it ain't! The job was turned out by one of America's top gunstock specialists. And Brother, when you attempt anything as tough as the flying duck on this page, be careful. It may sound like a lot of wasted effort, but try one on a plain wooden block first. Then, *if* you get away with it, start cutting into that prize gunstock. But not before!

Even then, stick to straight lines. Curves may look simple, but matching a curved inlay to a curve in a gunstock is no cinch.

If you are interested in salvaging that Mauser stock and don't mind running a little to the bizarre, you will enjoy trying some plastic inlays. ◆ ◆ ◆





**Ornamental inlays can hide unsightly holes in a trimmed-down military stock (above), but they must not be so small as to appear "lost" (below)**

# Hunting with a Spotting Scope

*By* HOFFMAN BIRNEY

CHUCK HUNTING IS AT ITS BEST in Pennsylvania during the early fall. The little marmots are busy plumping up for their long sleep. The weather's cool and they're out of doors, not down in the rath-skeller, from before noon until six or seven o'clock. All the little ones are grown up and self supporting, so they won't starve in the den when a high-speed bullet issues Pa or Ma a passport to eternal clover-fields. Too, September and October in Pennsylvania are months when just to be outdoors is enough for any sportsman.

Yet during those best months the hunter is severely handicapped. Weeds are high, no leaves have fallen, clover or alfalfa may have been left to go to seed, and good cover grows to within a couple of feet of the den. The hunter's just got to have something which will help him see, and see clearly. He can't use a heavy, scope-sighted rifle to survey, foot by foot, a considerable area; and—in our case—a pair of six power type EE binoculars of World War I vintage is equally inadequate. They just don't have the definition required at the longer ranges. The spot in the middle of a field might be a den; it might also be a clump of dead weeds.

The major factor which influenced my decision to try a 20X spotting scope in the field was that I had one, a Super-grade Argus, which I was lucky enough to win last summer on "The Fishing and Hunting Club of the Air" radio show. It's a honey, but one trip was sufficient to teach my partner and I that the tripod mount was OK for the target range but not worth a you-know-what in the field. We had to have something with smooth universal action in both elevation and traverse. The stand we evolved to meet that need is one which any varmint hunter who owns a spotting scope can make at little expense.

The tripod is the regular telescoping kind which is standard for all cameras. The universal or swivel head is also standard and can be bought at any camera supply house. Ours cost seventy-nine cents. A hole was drilled through the triple yoke in which the legs pivot and a quarter-inch machine screw turned tightly into the universal head. The machine screw is held in place by a set screw through the body of the head. This set screw is important. If the machine screw isn't pinned, it will loosen on traverse to the left.

A cradle for the Super-grade Argus was made from two blocks of walnut and screwed to an aluminum plate, four inches by four inches. The male thread on the upper end of the universal head passes through the center of the plate. This is secured by a deep nut and a quarter-inch set screw.

**This stand and a 20X scope help the author to spot chucks on his fall hunts**

A locknut would serve equally well. The holding "strap" is a spring passed through a rubber tube. Glue a strip of felt in each block of the cradle to keep the scope from creeping and to prevent scratching its surface.

The minimum height of this stand, with legs extended at a normal angle, is about thirteen inches. With one joint extended, as shown in the illustration, the eyepiece is twenty-six inches from the ground—a very convenient height for observation while seated. The maximum height obtainable is about fifty-five inches, and that's mighty nice on the pistol range. The weight of this equipment, including scope, is four pounds five ounces; the stand alone weighs two and one-half pounds right on the line.

The locking-screw which passes through the body of the universal head is a most important feature of the gadget. A very little practice will enable one to maintain exactly the degree of tension required to permit smooth traverse or elevation—or both at once—without a wobble or jerk. One can pick up a crow as he takes off from the ground or a tree and follow him in flight.

The opportunities for nature study are limitless with an outfit of this kind. I have been rather surprised that such scopes are considered an article of specialized equipment, of value only on the target range. Just as an example, set up your spotting scope some night and train it on the full moon. The 20X magnification brings out all the details of that satellite's topography, the rough mountain ranges, and the deep craters, and the flat depressions which astronomers call seas.

In varmint hunting you can survey with this gadget every square foot of a field that is far beyond rifle range. You can look over a field which lies beyond a creek and save, perhaps, a quarter-mile hike to the nearest bridge or set of crossing-stones.

"Look, there's a good spot just inside that fence."

A meadow slopes down to a small stream and beyond the stream—a good three hundred and fifty or four hundred yards—is a clover field. The further edge of the cloverfield is six hundred yards away if it's a foot.

"Let's have a look-see. Nope, that brown area is just a bald spot— *(Continued on page 45)*

# ELECTRICAL BEDDING

*By* EDWARDS BROWN, JR.

THE MODERN RIFLE IS in most respects a precision instrument. There is nevertheless one extremely weak point in its design—namely, a means of making adjustments for proper bedding. This weakness is perfectly obvious when we consider that many low priced rifles, if carefully bedded, will shoot better groups than a high priced rifle manufactured to close tolerances, which is not properly bedded. I have seen target rifles, in a machine rest, shooting two inch groups or larger, at 100 yards. I have seen these same rifles, after an experienced bedder has worked over them for three or four hours, shoot one inch groups or smaller at 100 yards with the same ammunition.

If a low priced rifle, as it comes from the factory, may occasionally be found to give better accuracy than some high priced target rifle poorly bedded, then we are safe in saying that bedding is now the greatest single accuracy factor.

This applies to the hunting rifle as well as the target rifle. No method of controlling the pressure of the stock upon the gun barrel has ever been devised that will enable the hunter or the target shooter to compensate for variations. Electric bedding is a simple attempt to provide this means of controlling the tension between the rifle barrel and the gunstock.

The device used in electric bedding enables the shooter to determine what pressure need be applied, if any is required, to make the barrel shoot most accurately, or it will hold the barrel at its zero setting if that is where it functions most accurately.

Electric bedding is also an attempt to save the varminteer, the long-range big game hunter, and the target shooter the tedious hours, sweat, ill humor, and Prussian blue from head to foot which may be involved in bedding a rifle for best accuracy. Even the expert stockmaker can seldom avoid hours of spotting the barrel and action into the stock. He takes the barrel and action out of the stock, covers the underside with blue, puts the barrel and action back in the stock, and takes them out again to look for the tell-tale blue impressions on the wood. After repeatedly putting the barrel and action in, taking them out; cutting, rasping, scraping the inletted areas; and, perhaps, finally putting shims between the barrel and the stock, he arrives at what he thinks will give him the best accuracy.

The trouble is he doesn't know exactly what will give him best accuracy, so he must make a trip to the range to test fire the gun with different loads. If the groups at 100 yards average 1¼ inches and he is shooting for one inch or smaller groups, he goes home and starts the bedding process all over again. Of course he has to gamble on whether or not he can make the rifle shoot groups smaller than 1¼ inches. If he changes the bedding, the groups may go out to 1½ inches. Once he has changed it, however, he may never be able to come back to the previous bed. When he gets what he wants his stock may warp, then he must again start from scratch.

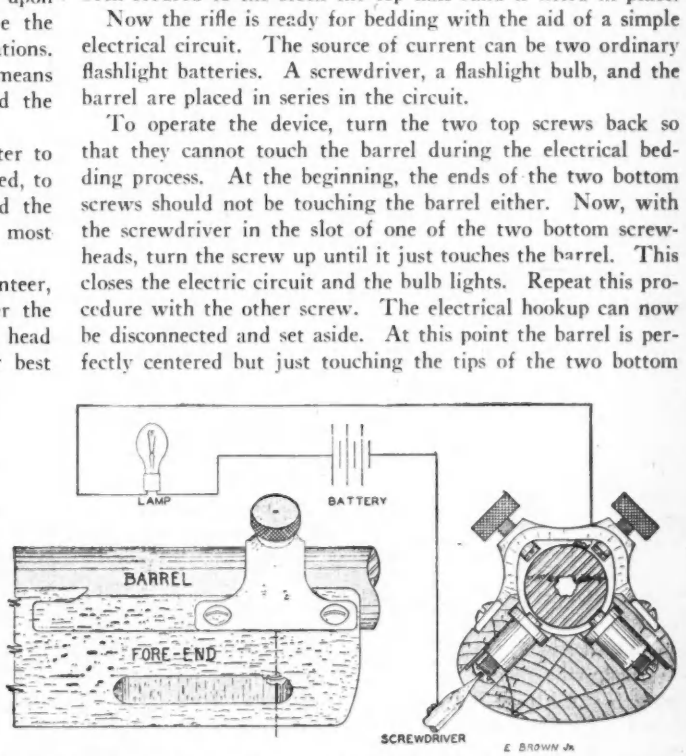
All of this is done because the bedding of a rifle is a tremendous factor in the accuracy with which it shoots. The barrel groove in the stock is particularly sensitive to bedding. The points at which the barrel touches as well as the amount of tension between wood and barrel influence the way in which the barrel vibrates as the bullet travels down the bore.

After worrying through the bedding of several rifles by trial and error and still not knowing exactly what I had arrived at, I worked up a scheme of bedding by electrical contact. The drawing illustrates the basic idea.

The first step in preparing the stock for bedding by this method is to take enough wood out of the groove to free float the barrel. There should be at least 1/32 inch clearance between the barrel and groove along the full length of the fore-end, and more clearance is preferable. Holes are drilled in the fore-end to receive bushings which are threaded to take adjustment screws. After the barrel and action have been secured to the stock the top half-band is fitted in place.

Now the rifle is ready for bedding with the aid of a simple electrical circuit. The source of current can be two ordinary flashlight batteries. A screwdriver, a flashlight bulb, and the barrel are placed in series in the circuit.

To operate the device, turn the two top screws back so that they cannot touch the barrel during the electrical bedding process. At the beginning, the ends of the two bottom screws should not be touching the barrel either. Now, with the screwdriver in the slot of one of the two bottom screwheads, turn the screw up until it just touches the barrel. This closes the electric circuit and the bulb lights. Repeat this procedure with the other screw. The electrical hookup can now be disconnected and set aside. At this point the barrel is perfectly centered but just touching the tips of the two bottom screws. If each screw is now given an equal number of turns, or clicks, force is put on the underside of the barrel which tends to push the stock and barrel apart. This force is the same on each side of the barrel, however, since each screw was started from the same point, or just as it touched the barrel.




**Cross section of barrel fore-end shows bedding device in circuit with battery and lamp**

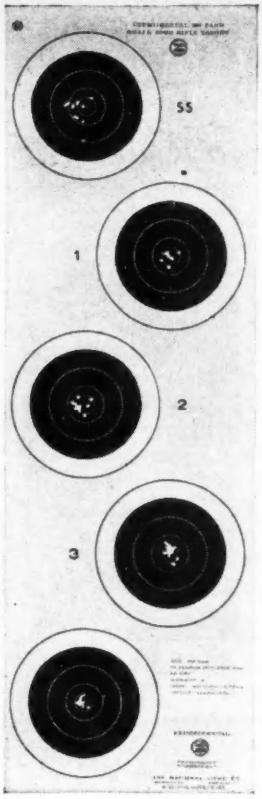
In order to find out how many turns you must give each screw for best accuracy, you will have to experiment. After

the bottom screws are adjusted turn the top screw down tight against the barrel. (The bedding attachments stay on the rifle of course.) One of the advantages of this device is that it enables you to keep track of various settings which gave the best groups. You can easily return to any previous setting. Another advantage is that the rifle can be re-bedded

**Arthur Cook fired the groups on the target at right after bedding his barrel with the aid of the pilot model of Brown's electric bedding device (above)**

to the best setting very rapidly in case the stock warps the least bit. This is possible because you can always determine a zero setting by electrical contact which is independent of the stock. A third advantage is that the rifle barrel, once the band and bushing are fitted to the stock, can be bedded more accurately in a fraction of a minute than it can in the hours of work which may be required to spot the barrel into the groove with Prussian blue. In a tight pinch the rifle could be bedded on the firing line in the middle of a match.

Dan Ferguson, a local engineer and gun bug, became interested in the electric bedding device and made one varying slightly from the original drawing (see page 43). A photograph of it is shown. Arthur Cook and I put this device on a rifle of Cook's which had not been performing with desired accuracy. With the first setting applied, Cook went out on the range, sighted in, and fired a 400 with 38X's over the Dewar course. The next day he experimented some and turned each bottom screw up 13 more clicks. With this setting he fired 40 shots at 100 yards and got another 400 with 38X's. Both of these scores surpass national records. One of Cook's 10X possible targets had only one shot barely touch the X ring, and that was from the inside.




Cook's scores do not prove anything conclusively but we feel it indicates that we are on the right track. Patents have been applied for on the device and it is expected that electrical bedding attachments, together with a small box holding the bulb and batteries, will be on the market soon. This doesn't prevent the individual shooter from making one up for his own use, however. ◆ ◆ ◆

# FOURTH ANNUAL SNIPERS' MATCH

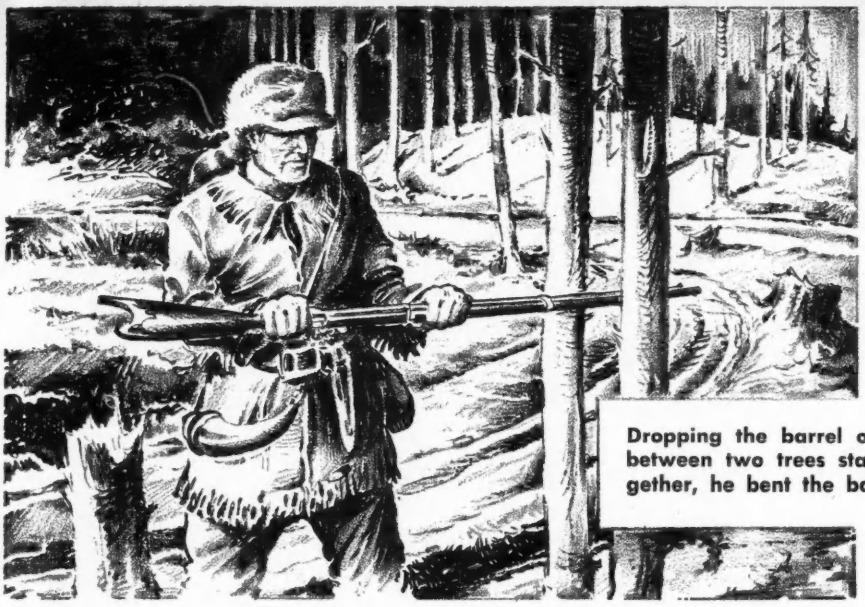
THE FOURTH ANNUAL SNIPERS' SHOOT of the Puget Sound Snipers' Congress was held on July 20th, and as usual produced a number of interesting results. Although conditions were not conducive to the making of small groups, some very fine targets were turned in. The previous record of 1.76 inches average for four consecutive five shot groups at 200 yards, made by Col. Fred Berger in 1945, was lowered to 1.715 inches by the very fine performance of the winner, Allen Learned, who placed third last year. Col. Berger used a heavy barrel Model 70 Winchester chambered for the .257 and Mr. Learned used the same model rifle chambered for the .220 Wilson Arrow. The general average of group sizes continued to shrink as it has every year, fulfilling one of the principal objectives of this shoot—the development of accuracy and interest in precision shooting. The entry list continues to grow and the general quality of equipment is improving.

No doubt the stiff, fishtailing breeze and mirage boosted the size of most groups by about one inch, but it is doubtful that the present record will be lowered to any great extent for several reasons. After deducting one-half inch or more for the human error in holding, present rifles are shooting close to ½ minute-of-angle groups and I think that is close to the limit with present bullets. I am certain better bullets can be made in all calibers, but they are not being made now. The idea at present seems to be quantity, even at the sacrifice of quality.

Target bullets should be full-jacketed as the soft lead tips are too easily damaged. Although *good* .220 bullets are far ahead of those of other calibers at present, there is plenty of room for improvement in run-of-mine lots of these bullets.

There is one other obstacle to further development of accuracy. There are plenty of good barrels, and all the well known makes are giving excellent results, when properly fitted. The number of gunsmiths, however, who can do a real precision job of fitting and chambering is very small, and those who can are swamped with work.

Other communities are organizing shoots similar to ours and we hope the same wide open rules will prevail so that records can be compared and national recognition established for this type of shooting.—JIM DAVIS. ◆ ◆ ◆



**A RIFLE IS LIKE ANY OTHER TOOL. YOU'VE GOT TO USE IT TO LEARN TO USE IT WELL**

**Dropping the barrel of the new rifle between two trees standing close together, he bent the barrel downward**

# DO YOU KNOW YOUR GUN?

By ARCHIBALD RUTLEDGE

WE OFTEN HEAR OF good shots and poor shots, common guns and wonderful guns; but I believe there is really less difference in both guns and marksmen than is usually supposed. Yet the difference is apparent. What occasions it? Well, when you find a man who does not know his gun, you'll probably find a poor shot. He is all right, and the gun is all right, but they aren't well acquainted. Show me a man who has used the same gun for many years and you'll probably show me a successful hunter. He may not be an expert marksman, and the gun may be a shabby old blunderbuss, but they know each other so well that they automatically work in unison and likely will bring home the game. An old Negro with an iron musket corroded with rust is more likely not to fail on a hunt than a millionaire sportsman with a $1500 gun he has never tried.

As we fortunately can get used to anything, we can come to learn, to tolerate, and to make allowance for our guns' peculiarities. I had my first gun when I was six years old. Jumping a ditch one morning, I crammed the muzzle full of earth. At my first shot the gun, of course, exploded. I lost about fourteen inches off the end of the barrel. The gun that was left me after our plantation Negro blacksmith had cut off the frazzled end with a hack saw had no sight, was short, and the barrel was definitely crooked. But I learned to make due allowance for all these shortcomings. I used no other gun for many years, and with it I killed all kinds of game including deer and wild turkeys.

It is amazing what even the humblest gun will do if you are used to handling it; and also how worthless you may consider even an elaborately made and high-priced gun if you two are strangers to each other. No two cars, even of the same model, "handle" just alike. Even machines are temperamental and, while its mechanism is comparatively simple, a shotgun is a highly individual thing. If it is really going to do the work for him, a gun should be as familiar to a man as his ragged hunting coat or his old slouch hat.

Not long ago a very wealthy man died in my neighborhood. He had a superb hunting place. When an appraisal was made of what he had left, it was discovered that in his gun cabinets he had left twenty-two guns—English, French, Belgian, American. Eighteen of these were 12 gauge shotguns. I wonder if he ever had more than a bowing acquaintance with any of them—like some movie stars with their successions of wives and husbands? For the past forty-three years I have shot the same old 12 gauge Parker gun (37.50 grade). We have grown old together. With it I have killed grouse, quail, ringnecks, ducks, about a hundred wild turkeys, and some 200 bucks. I have killed the last ninety-eight bucks I've shot at with this gun. It isn't because either the gun or I is unusual. We have just been long mated.

In his famous classic, *The Maneaters of Tsavo,* Colonel J. H. Patterson takes occasion to curse a rifle he borrowed from a friend. He was hunting lions and his lack of acquaintance with his weapon almost cost him his life. It was an admirable rifle but it was new to him.

Colonel Patterson was a veteran sportsman and the rifle was

all right. But the two of them just were not adjusted. Before he can come really to count on his gun, a man has to be married to it; the ceremony of acquiring it is not enough. He has to live with it. And usually, as in marriage itself, after a few unhappy experiences and disillusions, "there shall ensue a faithful peace, beautiful friendship tried by sun and wind, durable from the daily dust of life." A hunter ought to have a real affection for his gun.

Among the greatest of all pioneer hunters was Meshach Browning whose book, *Forty-four Years of the Life of a Hunter,* is a truly wonderful narrative, not alone of his exploits as a sportsman, but of the nature of the life he led in the wilderness. He hunted in the big mountains of Western Maryland during the period 1797-1841. In that time he killed approximately fifty pumas, 100 wolves, 500 bears, 2000 deer, and innumerable wild turkeys. All his shooting was done, of course, either with a flintlock or with a cap-and-ball rifle.

On one unhappy occasion Meshach traded his old fusee for one that looked handsomer. He vividly records his feelings when he missed three successive bucks (two of them standing at thirty paces) with his new weapon. Unable to tell just what the trouble was, he set up a snowball on a stump and began to shoot at it. The rifle seemed to be shooting some eight or ten inches too high. This was really too much for a man like Meshach to stand, for his very life in that snowy wilderness depended on the game he could get. He heartily cursed himself for having traded off his ugly but reliable old gun. Then, dropping the barrel of the new rifle between two trees standing close together, he bent the barrel downward until he thought he had corrected the fault! After some time, he reports, he got so that he could shoot with the new gun.

On a good many occasions friends who have come to hunt deer with me have asked to borrow my old long gun. I have always hesitated—not because I minded their using the gun but rather because I was fairly sure that they would have bad luck with it. Once when one of my sons had come home on a flying trip, bringing no gun, he undertook, with no misgiving, to use mine. He missed two bucks in succession, a thing he had never done before, and has not done since. From the nature of the case, a borrowed gun, like a new gun, is usually a rather dubious weapon. It just is not natural for a man to shoot well with a strange gun. And one reason is that under these circumstances most men have a nervous feeling that they are stepping out on the Little Woman who has been faithful to them so long.

Now this matter of being a better shot with your own gun is due, of course, to what might be called automatic or spontaneous co-ordination. Strange as it may seem, experienced hunters *rarely* take aim with a shotgun that they have used a long time. No man who is thoroughly familiar with his gun really needs to take aim. Man and gun simply co-ordinate instantaneously. The strange gun is the gun you have to aim; you can't co-ordinate with such a gun. To shoot it as if you could is probably the reason why you miss. Of course, I believe in taking aim, in putting it on the target. But often you don't have time, especially in brush shooting.

On one occasion, while fighting my way through a dense thicket, on my way to a deerstand in an open savanna, I heard a slight noise ahead of me, and caught the glint of a horn. Although my gun was under my arm at the time and my hat pulled down, I managed to get my gun up and to make a shot at the vanishing buck. There was no possible chance of taking aim. I never saw exactly what kind of deer I was shooting at. Fifty yards forward from where I had fired I came upon a regal ten-point stag. If I had been using any other gun than my own, I know I should have missed him.

To be successful, a hunter must know the capacity of his gun and he must be a good judge of distances. "After forty yards," said the famous Bogardus, "uncertainty begins." But I find that the average hunter hardly knows the difference, offhand, and especially if he is excited, between forty and eighty yards. I have heard men declare that they had shot running deer at 200 yards in the woods. The deer probably may have been anywhere from thirty to seventy-five yards from them. Except under unusual conditions, a man will hardly see a running deer at that distance. A gun, however beautiful and costly, is good only for a certain distance. The hunter must know the limits of his gun.

While the acquiring of co-ordination takes time, I believe it can be shortened if the hunter will give closest attention to the length of his gunstock. There is a psychologically exact length for every man: When he lifts his gun to his shoulder, the sight should fall practically on the target.

By the use of pads and boots the length of gun stocks can be brought to the proper dimensions. Of course, of great aid to coordination is the natural *balance* of a gun, and that is the point at which the fine gun "has it" over the common gun. Master gunsmiths give a great deal of their time and genius to the achievement of balance. Of course, a gun balanced for one man may not be balanced for another, but the proper adjustment can often be made, at least to some degree, by attention to the stock.

Hunters may, for the discussion of this subject, be grouped into two classes: Those who shoot one gun at all times at everything; and those who use a series of guns, one for every occasion. The number of guns a man may have is necessarily determined by what he can afford. However, this is not always true. I have a friend in moderate circumstances who has about ten guns. As he is married, he has to be strategic about his extravagance. But he has a system: Every time he just has to have a new gun he gives it to his wife! For all his firearms he remains an indifferent shot—possibly because he has so many that he never gets used to any one.

Now, I am not saying that getting used to a gun makes it a good one, but long acquaintance may go far toward making it a good gun for you. I have never considered a high-priced and elegantly balanced gun an extravagance; for though you may make a considerable initial outlay for it, look what you save: Your temper, shells, your religion, your veracity, and perhaps your marriage. What sensible woman is going to fall out of love with a man who supplies her, with a good deal of consistency, grouse, quail, wild ducks, ringnecks, wild turkey, and venison? My advice is to get the very best all-purpose gun you can; then mate with it for life. Stay with it, learn to judge distances, and never expect miracles from it. ◆ ◆ ◆

*(Continued from page 40)*

there's no den there. Sweep along the edge. Focus on that fence and then drop down a couple of feet."

Wise old chucks like to dig their dens along fence-lines where mowers aren't going to come along and decapitate the fellow who sticks up his noggin to see what all the fuss is about. Here in Pennsylvania they like the stone fences, too—nice sun-porches right outside the front door.

"There's one! You'd have missed it sure with either the Zeiss Zeilvier or the Weaver 330. A man can't hold a gun and swing it smoothly in a horizontal plane."

"Looks like fresh dirt around that den. I'll watch it from here and you take the Springfield and cut along the road to the next fence. Follow it to that little clump of trees. Keep low and you'll be out of sight of old man chuck."

"It looks like about two hundred and fifty yards from those trees to the den, but figure it out after you get there. Old Knock-'em-stiff is sighted to hit on point of aim at a hundred and fifty yards with these hundred-grain bullets."

"But don't lose him, partner. Only a stone-dead chuck wins another notch in the coup-stick."

There you are and there he is. I can just make out the top of his head and, from the way you're sneaking over that fence, you see him too—and you're not taking any chances on him seeing you. I'll watch that chuck and see what you do to him. He doesn't know there's a man within a mile. He's clear of the den. He's sitting up to take a look around. There's your shot, partner.

Zowie! Now I see him, now I don't. Nice shot, partner; you sure split his infinitive and parsed his cesuras with that one. Pace it off from your shooting-point and I'll walk down to the den and meet you for the autopsy.

In short, the Argus—or any other good spotting scope—on a universal mount is one mighty sweet outfit. You can spot targets, or likely spots for targets, that you'd otherwise miss. You can study terrain and plan your stalk. You can locate the wise old sentry crow who never joins in the squawking, but he's the guy you're really got to watch if you're planning a raid on his brethern in yonder stubble. And you can stick it under your arm, leave the guns home, and still enjoy a really worth-while day. ♦ ♦ ♦

# GERMAN PROOF LAW OF JUNE 7, 1939

IN MY ARTICLE, "Proof Marks on European Shotguns," in the January, 1946, AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, I mentioned the newest German Proof Law of June 7, 1939. This law came into force on January 15, 1940, after which date all German-made commercial barrels had to be proved according to its clauses. It is very unlikely that during the war much manufacturing and proving has been done under it. Nevertheless, some of the clauses warrant mention.

The most interesting of these requirements is the provision that all barrels for which cartridges loaded with smokeless powder are commercially available must be proved with the heaviest obtainable load that will enter the chamber (this does away with all shotguns proved only for black powder); that all barrels and chambers before being admitted to proof must conform to the standard measurements established by the law, although it was necessary to delay the application of this clause, as it had not been possible to furnish the necessary tools and dies to all Proof Houses; that all new 8 mm. barrels for jacketed bullets will be made only in the S size, or with 7.89 mm. bore diameter and 8.20 mm. groove diameter, and all cartridges made for use in those barrels be marked with the letter "S" after the caliber designation; that pressures are to be kept to a rigid maximum, which made necessary a small reduction in the powder charge of some cartridges; and finally that all rifle ammunition may change hands only when packed in closed and sealed containers.

All cartridges with loads given even slightly higher than standard pressures must be marked "Not for use in normally proved barrels" on the closed and sealed containers, and their rims must be chamfered.

The RWS factory was already tooling up to manufacture after the war an 8 mm. bullet for the S caliber, which would give equally good results also in the smaller 7.80 mm. caliber of the older barrels, somewhat on the same lines as the Remington 8 mm. Special bullet. All these plans, of course, have come to nothing.—A. ENGELHARDT.

MINIMUM BARREL DIAMETERS AND MAXIMUM NORMAL PRESSURES FOR GERMAN RIFLE CARTRIDGES ACCORDING TO PROOF LAW OF JUNE 7, 1939

| *Name of Cartridge* | *Bore* | | *Groove* | | *Lbs. per* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *mm.* | *inch* | *mm.* | *inch* | *Vel.* | *sq. inch* |
| 5.6 x35R | 5.35 | .2106 | 5.58 | .2195 | 2400 | 34.000 |
| 5.6 x52R (.22HP) | 5.55 | .2185 | 5.75 | .2264 | 2900 | 41.100 |
| 6.5 x27R | 6.30 | .2480 | 6.55 | .2579 | 2200 | 31.200 |
| 6.5 x52R (.25-35) | 6.30 | .2480 | 6.55 | .2579 | 2200 | 31.200 |
| 6.5 x54 (Mann-Schon.) | 6.48 | .2549 | 6.78 | .2667 | 3200 | 45.400 |
| 6.5 x54 | 6.40 | .2520 | 6.64 | .2618 | 2700 | 38.300 |
| 6.5 x57 | 6.45 | .2539 | 6.70 | .2638 | 3400 | 48.300 |
| 6.5 x57R | 6.45 | .2539 | 6.70 | .2638 | 2900 | 41.100 |
| 6.5 x58R | 6.40 | .2520 | 6.64 | .2618 | 2500 | 35.500 |
| 5.4 x68 | 6.45 | .2539 | 6.70 | .2638 | 3800 | 54.000 |
| 7 x57 | 6.98 | .2746 | 7.24 | .2854 | 3400 | 48.300 |
| 7 x57R | 6.98 | .2746 | 7.24 | .2854 | 3000 | 42.600 |
| 7 x64 | 9.98 | .2746 | 7.24 | .2854 | 3600 | 51.100 |
| 7 x65R | 6.98 | .2746 | 7.24 | .2854 | 3300 | 46.900 |
| 7 x72R | 6.98 | .2746 | 7.24 | .2854 | 2500 | 35.500 |
| 8 x56 (Mann-Schon.) | 7.95 | .3130 | 8.30 | .3268 | 2800 | 40.000 |
| 8 x57JS | 7.89 | .3110 | 8.20 | .3268 | 3400 | 48.300 |
| 8 x57JRS | 7.89 | .3110 | 8.20 | .3268 | 2800 | 40.000 |
| 8 x57R/360 | 7.80 | .3071 | 8.07 | .3179 | 2200 | 31.200 |
| 8 x58R | 7.80 | .3071 | 8.07 | .3179 | 2000 | 28.400 |
| 8 x60S | 7.89 | .3110 | 8.20 | .3268 | 3500 | 49.700 |
| 8 x60RS | 7.89 | .3110 | 8.20 | .3268 | 3000 | 42.600 |
| 8 x68S | 7.89 | .3110 | 8.20 | .3268 | 3800 | 54.000 |
| 8 x72R | 7.80 | .3071 | 8.07 | .3179 | 2500 | 35.500 |
| 8 x75RS | 7.89 | .3110 | 8.20 | .3268 | 3300 | 46.900 |
| 8.15x46R | 7.60 | .2992 | 8.03 | .3159 | 1500 | 21.300 |
| 9 x56 (Mann-Schon.) | 8.80 | .3465 | 9.15 | .3602 | 2400 | 34.000 |
| 9 x57 | 8.78 | .3455 | 9.06 | .3558 | 2500 | 35.500 |
| 9 x57R | 8.78 | .3455 | 9.06 | .3558 | 2500 | 35.500 |
| 9.3 x57 | 9.00 | .3543 | 9.28 | .3652 | 2600 | 37.000 |
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# The Old Coach

## SHOOTING HABITS

SHOOTING HABITS ARE, like all habits, easy to acquire and hard to break. In using a lever-action rifle, I spend plenty of time and ammunition shooting pests during the summer. One .22 lever action I used would jam unless I canted it slightly when I threw the lever down to eject the empty cartridge. I would take the rifle from my shoulder after each shot. When I found I was developing a tendency to do this with my big-game rifle, I scrapped the .22. After replacing it with a new one, I had no further trouble.

This was a very small thing, hardly noticeable. Yet, there would have been an inevitable payoff if the habit were encouraged, not so much from the standpoint of the mechanics of operation but from the subconscious conflict which would have resulted. The confidence which I had as a foundation from much woods hunting would have been lost. It was not, however, the fact that I canted the rifle which was wrong; rather it was the departure from my normal way of handling a rifle on game.

It is axiomatic that we must have a picture of the sights in relation to the game, or target, to hit consistently. We also have a picture of the rifle as it appears while we are getting the sights on the game. Coordinated with this is the let off or trigger squeeze. Any conflict which breaks this co-ordination, however slight, will result in misses.

Have you ever watched an unskilled rifleman shoot at his first big game? Ten chances to one he has never given the matter any thought, much less any practice. Once I witnessed a shooting episode which will bear telling. This hunter had everything in the way of equipment, a beautiful rifle, well sighted and stocked, a nice pair of binoculars. In short, he had everything but good shooting habits.

He wasn't bad as a woodsman, moving cautiously and slowly. But his shooting was something to make D. Boone turn over in his grave. We spotted a small forked horn on an open flat. The range was in the neighborhood of eighty yards; the deer standing. The hunter fired every other cartridge in his rifle, throwing out an empty, working the bolt, ejecting an unfired case, reloading, and getting off a shot. One bullet hit the earth about twenty feet in front of him. The other clipped a limb from a tree about six feet above the deer. Out of the five shells in the rifle he managed to fire two.

You may call it buck fever. That is a generalization which explains nothing. Fundamentally, it was a lack of good shooting habits to take over under the excitement of game shooting. Those things which he could have learned on the range, through dry firing and plinking, were absent.

Under the circumstances he was trying to do four distinct things at the same time: Aim, fire, operate the rifle, and keep the game under his eye. The only operation which he was able to complete was the operation of the bolt. His conscious mind divided its attention on all the other actions. He was not so familiar with the operation of his rifle that his attention could be devoted to the one thing that is essential to successful hunting—aligning the sights on the game.

The one performance wouldn't be so bad from the standpoint of the hunter, but there will be a repetition. Just as surely as good shooting habits take over in the game field, so do any bad habits deeply engraved on the mind from repetition. In this case if the hunter jumps another buck without first shooting and handling his rifle enough to become proficient, the subconscious memory of his first unhappy experience will ride him heavily. No matter how he reassures himself that it is an easy shot, he has a psychological factor to overcome. All the doubts, the feeling of inadequacy, will be haunting him. There will be no good habits of shooting to help him during the excitement of putting up a buck, nothing for the basis of confidence which is essential to good rifle handling in the game field.

There is a simple experiment which will prove the part habit plays in shooting. On the range a rifleman develops a certain method of shooting. He sees the sights in relation to the target in a certain way. All the slack is taken up on the trigger, and there is just a small amount of pressure needed to get off the shot. Yet if the picture of the sights in relation to the target weren't right, he would have to make a conscious effort to fire. And if the picture were right, it would also require an effort on his part not to release his shot when he is on. The same thing is true of pest, big game, or any other shooting. Habitually the shot is released when the sights are on, and the subconscious mind insists on the habit continuing.

The word skill is capable of various interpretations. It is all-inclusive. We say we haven't the skill to make a certain shot. But, as a matter of fact, it is more truthful to say we haven't the confidence in our ability to do so. A hunter may be unbelievably unskillful on running game, missing shot after shot. Then one day he connects. And his shooting improves immeasurably. Now that one shot with which he bagged his game surely never increased his skill so much. No. The shooting habits which he has developed on the range, and shooting at pests, are paying off. The reassurance of killing game has begun to counteract his lack of self-confidence.

On the range we may dope the wind, be exact with the amount of elevation, but unless we have confidence in the shot, it will be well out of the bull. For underlying all the mechanical factors of shooting, there is a psychological one. And that is conditioned, to a great extent, by our shooting habits.

A rifleman must train himself to do all his shooting in a certain way. It is impossible to have a certain set of range habits and another set for the woods. Fortunately range habits can be easily adapted to woods shooting. Snapshooting deer is merely a speed up of the method one uses in offhand shooting. The fundamental of snapshooting is rhythm, and this rhythm can be made a habit just as easily on the range as in the woods. Practice until all the mechanical details are subconscious. That will automatically attend to the necessary skill, and bringing home something beside an alibi will become a very agreeable habit. ◆ ◆ ◆

# POWDER SMOKE: THE NEWS DESK . . . READERS COMMENT

## RIFLEMAN COPIES TO CLUB SECRETARIES

In the past it has been the policy of the NRA to send a copy of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN to all affiliated club secretaries. In Class A clubs each member of the club is also an individual member of the NRA, and as such receives his individual copy of THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN. Therefore the club does not require a "club copy." For that reason a duplicate mailing of THE RIFLEMAN to the secretary of a Class A club has been discontinued. This action does not affect Class B Clubs.

## TOURNAMENT NEWS

With the appearance of the July issue, the publication of *Tournament News* has been discontinued. First published almost two years ago, when wartime restrictions forced THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN down to a minimum of pages, it has served its purpose of carrying news of rifle and pistol matches to shooters well.

Now the NRA desires to carry this news, less detailed and more unified, to all members of the Association, whether tournament shooters or not. This will be done in THE RIFLEMAN with frequent reports of tournament results similar to the "Regional Round-Up" in this issue. Officials of major tournaments should see that news stories of their matches are sent to THE RIFLEMAN so they can be included in these reports.

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## HINDS APPOINTED HEAD OF AMERICAN SHOOTING ASSN.

Sidney R. Hinds has resigned his post with the National Rifle Association as NRA Field Representative in the North Central states to become Executive Director of the American Shooting Association, which will promote target practice with the $CO_2$ rifle manufactured by the Crosman Arms Co., Rochester, N. Y. He will assume the duties of that office on September 1. Headquarters of the A.S.A. will be established in Washington but a permanent address is not available.

The North Central Field Office of the NRA, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, will close on September 1. Any correspondence with that office should be directed to NRA Headquarters.

## NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

The New England 200-Yard Offhand Championship Match for the Major James H. Keough Trophy will be held at the Reading Rifle and Revolver Club Range, one mile north of Camp Curtis Guild in Reading, Mass., on October 12 and 13, 1947. There will also be re-entry matches for the pistol and rifle with $200 worth of merchandise as prizes.

Information regarding the match can be obtained from E. A. Rankin, Secretary of the Reading Rifle and Revolver Club, 40 Gledhill Avenue, Everett, Mass.

## .30 CALIBER MATCHES AT PERRY

On September 14, when the Ohio Rifle and Pistol Association sponsors the Ohio .30 caliber championship matches, the first big-bore competition since 1940 will be held at Camp Perry. The match program will consist of only two matches, one for the team and one for the individual state titles. The individual match will be fired at 200 yards, and will include both slow and sustained fire. The Square Deal Trophy Match, the team event, will be ten shots standing at 200 yards and ten shots prone at 600. Any .30-'06 rifle with metallic sights, except a bull gun, can be fired in these events. For programs write Ray T. Bayless, 7301 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 3, Ohio. Entries must be mailed before September 8.

## RICOCHETS

### RE: MATTHEWS, OR WHY WOMEN DON'T SHOOT

Philadelphia, Penna.

Editor:

For your information and that of Mrs. Matthews, I want to tell you why there are few women pistol shooters. It is not because we are afraid of guns, nor because we have inferiority complexes. It is because we are home raising families, a job which gets little publicity but which we consider more important than shooting.

Many of us would like to try our skill. But if mother goes shooting, papa must stay home with the children, unless the family income can pay for a competent baby sitter. And, you know, baby sitters are earning as much as brick layers these days.

NAME WITHHELD

West New York, N. J.

Editor:

Alice Matthews really deserves all the credit due her. But don't you think that all the wives who have been traveling around with their husbands for the past five years should deserve some credit for their "patience" and "understanding" in the shooting game.

The shooter's wife sits on the side lines, sometimes two days, sometimes four, and patiently takes in these shooting matches until her husband is finished. At the Sparrows Point Match in Maryland this year my husband came off the range so tired he couldn't keep his eyes open and we had over 200 miles to drive home, so I drove all the way while my husband slept.

But I don't think I'm the only one, I'll bet there are lots of wives who do the same. And my hat's off to them.

Many nights I'd help my husband reload ammunition and I like the work very much, it is very interesting.

I suppose you'd like to know why I don't shoot at the matches. Well, here's the reason. I don't like standing out in the hot sun or pouring rain all day, but outside of that I shoot a .22 every time we go in the country and my husband practices.

MRS. MARIE FORREST

*Perhaps tournament sponsors should realize that the shooting sports must be made more attractive to lure women into competition. More covered firing points and nursery-playground facilities on modern ranges might be the answer.*—ED.

### VARIATIONS ON A THEME

Clarkstown, N. Y.

Editor:

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tation which would be amusing except that I am the butt of the joke.

I like pistol shooting and have several handguns of my own. Recently I moved back to Clarkstown District of Rockland County of N. Y. and immediately set about to get pistol permits for my guns. After the usual mad dash after names, fingerprints, pictures, and so on required on the application blank, I went to the Chief of Police who is required to sign it in. He announced that he would not sign the application because he had decided that there were too many pistols in his district; he had read in the papers of a lot of accidents. There was nothing personal in the matter, he had just decided to stop signing. A few weeks earlier and I would have had no trouble.

He sent me to the Sheriff, saying he would sign the papers, but the sheriff said he was damned if he would do the work of the Chief of Police.

So here I sit, fuming, with a bunch of illegal, useless-to-me-at-present pistols, which I cannot even sell legally if I so desired. I have heard a great deal about the Sullivan Law, but this is the first time I have ever heard of a state law being decided and interpreted on the whim of a petty local officer.

H. E. C.

## BRITISH SNIPER EQUIPMENT

Stockport, Chesire, England

Editor:

Since, in the matter of British sniping, there are a number of inaccurate statements, and comments which give rise to false impressions, in C. H. Howell's "Sniping Rifles" (April and May RIFLEMAN). Perhaps the following will be interesting and more truly informative.

The British sniping rifle was not as Howell writes "Rifle No. 4 Mark 1—the ordinary short Lee-Enfield in .303 caliber" but the No. 4 rifle, Mark 1* fitted with a No. 32 telescope sight, special sling, cheek rest and two pads to take the scope. The No. 4 rifle, a mass-produced weapon, although following the pattern of the Short Magazine Lee Enfield has certain variations from that tried and trusty design. Improvements incorporated into the No. 4 included: a slightly heavier and sturdier floating barrel which was not in direct contact with the woodwork; improved stocking up; a machined surface for the bolt head to ride upon inside the body—this afforded a smaller, more compact bolt head; a new type of bolt-retaining arrangement; aperture instead of open sights. A number of the No. 4 rifles of what I term the "in-between period" (manufactured early in the War—the pre-war rifles were excellent shooting jobs) were very poor but later types were as good as any service rifle I have ever handled. The No. 4 rifle which became the sniper rifle was hand selected at the Ordnance factories for its outstanding accuracy on test, and was later "married" to a 32 telescope.

I am only a small fellow, and by no means a Samson, but I never found the weight of the British sniper rifle to be excessive or uncomfortable. And I never met a sniper who complained, other than in a joking man-

ner, about the weight. The sniper is not the ordinary rifleman burdened with the impediments of the infantryman. Howell's article suggests that he weighed down excessively and carried his telescope in its case. When operational the sniper was lightly equipped and clad if he so chose. Before going out he would zero his rifle, take "zero ammunition," and almost invariably he carried the composite sniping job, the telescope fitted to the rifle, not in the case! Generally speaking the No. 4—and the No. 4 Mark 1—stood up exceedingly well to war conditions, which I think anyone who has experience of modern battle will agree are far more arduous and strenuous than hunting conditions.

The cheek rest on the sniper rifle which brings sarcastic comment from Howell was to many a very useful fixture, and in most of the rifles I handled it was certainly not so clumsy as he suggests. Many snipers, amongst them some of the finest it was my privilege to meet and shoot with, preferred to have the cheek rest removed. In all my experience—by no means sparse—I never saw one cheek rest split.

Howell's comment that in the British service rifle "there are a few longitudinal grooves cut into the forearm where your hand rests" is also in error. Many of the No. 4 rifles were smooth finished.

Much of Howell's commentary regarding the 32 telescope is misleading and I have no hesitation in declaring that the 32 was a darned good serviceable scope and certainly does not merit remarks which are the result of a lack of practical, true knowledge. The telescope was easily fixed on the rifle, was 3X and the focus was fixed. There were three Marks of the 32—Mark 1, 2 and 3. In the case of the Mark 1 the elevation drum was graduated from zero to 1000 yards, adjustable in 50 yards clicks; in the Mark 2 and 3 the click equalled one minute-of-angle adjustment. Lateral adjustment was obtained by turning the deflection drum mounted on the left side of the sight; this was graduated in two minute clicks (Mark 1) and one minute clicks (Marks 2 and 3) up to 16 minutes on each side of zero. Howell's remark that: "you can easily change the windage or the elevation on this outfit if you have the separate small wrench required to turn them, or maybe carry a pair of long-nosed pliers in your pocket" is mischievously mal-suggestive. Before going out the sniper zeroed his rifle and it was only then that the adjustment tools provided with each rifle *might* be used. Once the zero was correct and fixed, elevation and deflection adjustments were made by merely turning the drums to the required elevation or deflection figures. The sniper certainly need not carry the wrench or long-nosed pliers. It was unusual for a rifle to be knocked off zero by normal operational use, and in many cases it was possible to take off and replace the telescope a number of times without any serious deviation of the zero being effected.

The mount of the scope stood up to its job well, and in the opinion of many British sniping authorities (men who *knew*, and had *done*, the job) it was a really excellent prop-


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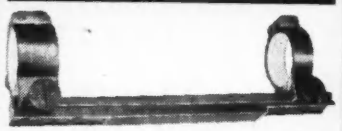

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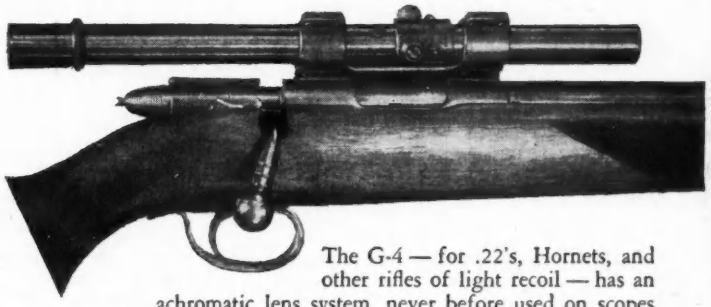

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osition for active service conditions.

Sniping to many of us was the finest, the greatest, of all games. The British sniper armed with the No. 4 Rifle Mark 1* and 32 telescope had a combination which was a worthy instrument in the full, complete enjoyment of the *sport.*

C. SHORE

Custom-built .22 Varminter on Mauser 98 action with Weaver K2.5 scope mounted on it. Gunsmith's name (Hoyer) on left side of barrel. $25 reward for information leading to recovery. Donald A. Daughenbaugh, State Teachers College, East Stroudsburg, Pa.

Following guns were stolen from Walter B. Raynor's gun shop, Patchogue, New York: 9 mm. Walther P-38 No. 96071, 7.65 mm. Beretta No. 585600, .380 cal. Beretta No. 33618, .45 cal. Colt Army pistol, Colt semi-automatic No. 499581, 9 mm. Belgium Browning No. 967G, .22 cal. High Standard target pistol No. 191636, Belgium 44-40, .38 cal. Police Positive, .38 S&W special No. 54788, .38 cal. H&R pear-handled hammerless, 9 mm. Luger No. 8256. Chief Bridge, Brookhaven Town Police, Patchogue, N. Y.

High side-wall Winchester Zipper No. 3865 with 5A Lyman scope. W. Schwarz, 144 Jefferson St., Albany, N. Y.

Winchester Model 12 12-guage shotgun No. 933891 and Savage Model 29 .22 cal. rifle No. 51377. Kerwin D. Kerr, 2925 North Cottage Place, Portland, Oregon.

Old style Colt Woodsman with heavy Sukalle barrel, target grips, and flower engraved on slide and barrel. Name (T. J. Imler) on back strap of grip. Wm. F. Stewart, P.O. Box 13, Whipple, Arizona.

The four classes of registered touranments are indicated as follows:

**AA**—National Matches.
**A**—Regional Tournaments.
**B**—State Championship or large district matches.
**C**—Local Tournaments.
**Un**—Indicates tournaments that are not registered.

Tournaments requiring Advance Entries are indicated by **Adv.** and tournaments that plan to limit the entries to a predetermined number are indicated by **Ltd.**

SEPTEMBER

**13-14, California (B)** Northern Calif. Small Bore Chmp., Richmond. Chilton DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Ave., Oakland.

**13-14, Louisiana (C)** First "Old Southern" Rifle Tournament. John E. Zufall, Box 1181, Monroe.

**14, Illinois (C)** Small Bore Rifle Tournament. Kester E. Brewer, 387 Manor Place, Aurora.

**14, Connecticut (Un)** 200 Yard Off-Hand Match. Kurt Billeb, 839 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford.

**14, Michigan (C)** Annual Peach Harvest Rifle Match. Mr. H. Southland, 1350 Monroe St., Benton Harbor.

**14, California (Un)** Pistol Tournament. Maurice M. Clark, R.D. Live Oak.

**14, Arizona (C)** First Annual Pistol Tournament. Sam Mansfield, P.O. Box 1616, Tucson.

**14, Pennsylvania (C)** Small Bore Rifle. Alfred Newhard, 111 Susquehenna St., Allentown.

**14, Wisconsin (C)** Fall Small Bore Matches. Col. Joseph J. Ring, 1842 No. 83rd St., Wauwatosa.

**14, Illinois (B)** Illinois State Rifle Association, Fort Sheridan. Thomas M. Blakemore, 5004 W. Huron St., Chicago 44.

**14, Pennsylvania (C)** Fall Small Bore. Ed. W. Cook, 926 Orr Ave., Kittanning,

**14, California (Un)** Fourth Annual Butte County Fair Pistol Matches. W. W. Price, Box 737, Gridley.

**14, Maryland (C)** First Annual Fall Rifle Tournament, Middle River. Roy Andrews, 708 Highwood Drive, Baltimore.

**14, Ohio (Un)** .30 Caliber Tournament, Camp Perry. Roy T. Bayless, 7301 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland.

**14, Utah (C)** Sixth Intermountain Small Bore Rifle Tournament. A. J. Schindler, 2900 Kenwood Street, Salt Lake City.

**14, Illinois (C)** Small Bore Rifle Tournament. K. E. Brewer, 387 Manor Place, Aurora.

**20-21, New York (C)** Rifle Tournament Bethpage, L. I. Ed. Moore, 87-27 257 st., Floral Park, L. I.

**20-21, Ohio (C)** 11th Annual Wilmo Small Bore Rifle Tournament, Mt. Healthy. Mrs. Betty Vandeveer, 800 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati 31. **(Adv. & Ltd.)**

**20-21, New York (B)** New York State and Dutchess County Pistol Championship. Mrs. Martha Strahan, 30 Arnold Blvd., Poughkeepsie.

**20-21, Pennsylvania (B)** State Small Bore Rifle Championship, Harrisburg. Jay L. Smith, 1506 Walnut St., Camp Hill.
**20-21, Oklahoma (B)** State Pistol Championship, Tulsa. Jess Berger, 812 East Maple, Cushine.
**21, Arizona (C)** Small Bore Rifle Tournament. R. A. Bunce, 1823 N. 11th Street, Phoenix.
**21, Maryland (C)** First Annual Pistol Match, Stemmers Run. R. A. Zehl, 61-Oak Grove Drive, Baltimore 12.
**21, Michigan (C)** Annual Fall Small Bore. A. J. Marxhausen, 2521 Thomas Street, Flint.
**21, Florida (C)** Florida West Coast Pistol League Match. Clara A. Britton, 3635 Myra St., Jacksonville.
**21, Missouri (C)** Third Annual Pistol Tournament. Frank Stubits, Sec., 5507 Lisette Ave., St. Louis 9.
**21, Illinois (C)** Small Bore State Championship. Aurora. Thomas M. Blakemore, 5004 W. Huron St., Chicago 44. **(Adv.)**
**21, Maine (C)** First Annual Small Bore Tournament. Damariscotta. George Van Wynen, 8 plant St., Bath.
**21, California (C)** San Francisco Police Monthly Pistol Tournament, Lake Merced. Emile J. Dutil, 324 16th Ave., San Francisco 18.
**21, New York (C)** Fourth Annual Central New York Championship, Oneida. George R. Story, Jr., Box 95, Vernon.
**22-23, Indiana (C)** Indiana State Police Invitational Pistol Match, Putmanville. Harold Jolliff, Room 126, State House, Indianapolis 4.
**27-28, Pennsylvania (C)** Fort Hand Rifle Tournament. Mr. G. W. Rupp, 1029 Hancock Ave., Vandergrift.
**27-28, Pennsylvania (C)** Tenth Annual Outdoor Small Bore Rifle. George W. Rupp, 1029 Hancock Ave., Vandergrift.
**27-28, Texas (B)** Ada Zilker Pistol Tournament. Joe B. Taylor, 1204 W. 10th Street, Austin. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**
**28, Missouri (C)** 20th Greater St. Louis Small Bore. Harvey Kobermann, 3423 Virginia Ave., St. Louis.
**28, New York (C)** Annual Indian Summer Rifle. Mr. Walter Ermold, 208 West 16th Street, Elmira.
**28, Indiana (C)** Small Bore Rifle, Michigan City. Mrs. Garnette R. Horner, 135 South Scott Street, South Bend 2.
**28, Iowa (C)** 6th Annual Pistol Tournament. Carl Prevatil, 110 East Columbia No. 2, Davenport.
**28, Maryland (B)** Maryland State Rifle Tournament, Randallstown. Mr. W. D. Blowers, 2711 Overland Ave., Baltimore 14.
**28, New York (C)** Fall Pistol Championship, Bethpage, L. I. Val Cleaver, P.O. Box 356, Hicksville, L. I.
**28, New Jersey (C)** Wynockie Valley Championship Small Bore, Midvale. R. A. Harris, 60 Manor Road (N. H.), Paterson 2.

OCTOBER

**4-5, Pennsyvania (B)** State Pistol Championship. F. H. Wells, 3800 Hillcrest Rd., Harrisburg.
**4-5, Oklahoma (B)** Second Annual Magic Empire Small Bore Fall Tournament. Don P. Young, 216 East Archer, Tulsa.
**4-5, Hawaii (C)** Sixth Annual Double Ten Pistol Tournament. Andrew Wong, 1046 Wong Ho Lane, Honolulu 34.
**4-5, New Jersey (C)** The Swiss 500, Union City. Mr. Walter J. Tanner. 119 Hobart St., Ridgefield.
**5, Indiana (C)** Small Bore Rifle Tournament. Hubert K. Rhodes, 3015 Noble St., Anderson.
**5, California (Un)** Southland Pistol Matches. R. S. Pease, Route 3, Box 84, San Diego.
**5, Illinois (Un)** .30 Caliber Matches, Fort Sheridan. Thomas Blakemore, 5004 West Huron St., Chicago 44.
**5, California (Un)** Pistol Match. **Claire A.** Bourelle, 2114 W. 84th St., Los Angeles.
**5, California (Un)** Oakland Pistol Matches. J. H. Valerga, Jr., 3800 Cerrito Ave., Oakland 11.
**5, Pennsylvania (C)** Third Annual Fall Small Bore Rifle Championship, Lockaley Station. Mary Jane Oster, 2800 Township Line, Llanerch.
**5, California (C)** Small Bore League Match, Richmond. Chilton DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Ave., Oakland.
**5, New York (C)** Forbes Small Bore Tournament, Nassau. B. J. Czwakiel, 517 New Scotland Ave., Albany.
**11, North Carolina (C)** Small Bore Rifle. Addie C. Ellner, Box 36, Greensboro.
**11-12, Virginia (C)** Virginian's Fall Pistol Tournament, Quantico. H. V. Winfree, Box 7, Dumfries.
**11-12, Alabama (C)** Ninth Annual State Rifle Championship. J. D. Clem, 315 S. 20th Street, Birmingham.
**11-12, New York (Un)** Pistol Tournament, Roslyn. Peter Johner, Jr., Box 237, Carle Place, New York.
**11-12, Georgia (C)** South Atalntic Small Bore Rifle Tournament. Charles P. Simon, Route 4, Box 84, Ogeechee Rd., Savannah.
**11-12, New York (C)** Second Fall Rifle Championship, Bethpage, L. I. Val Cleaver, P.O. 356, Hicksville, L. I.
**12, Louisiana (C)** First Annual Ark.-La.-Texas Pistol Tournament. J. M. Goslin, P. O. Box 1098, Shreveport.
**12, Arizona (C)** Sectional Pistol Tournament. Mack Weiss, Box 1020, Prescott.
**19, New York (Un)** Pistol Tournament, Bethpage, L. I. Val Cleaver, P.O. Box 356, Hicksville, L. I.
**19, California (C)** San Francisco Police Monthly Pistol Tournament, Lake Merced. Emile J. Dutil, 324 16th Ave., San Francisco 18.

*Demonstrated by: Mr. L. B. Hardwick, Gun Dept., Abercrombie & Fitch Co., New York*

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**CHAMBERED. 30-06, 4 lands, right twist, in white metal, no rejects, guaranteed absolutely new. Special to GUNSMITHS—6 for $55.00; 10 for $90.00; case 25, $220.00. F.O.B., M.O., Chk., C.O.D. NEW 30-06 Mauser or Krag, 23" length barrel, $14.95 ea.**

**$10.85** each

**H. C. OSBORN** 10th & Ave. B, Box 1267, San Antonio, Texas

"So far tests of (Micronoil Gun-Lube) on polished steel . . . have shown no sign of rust even tho dew is heavy at night. I don't understand how it can thus protect the steel."

*ELMER KEITH, Gun Editor, OUTDOORSMAN magazine*

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From any size Kodachrome or Ansco color film up to and including 4x5. From 35mm. Mercury. 2¼x2¼, 2¼x3½ roll or cut film only. 5x7 and 8x10 Prints attractively mounted.

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**The TOMPKINS PRECISION .22 PISTOL**

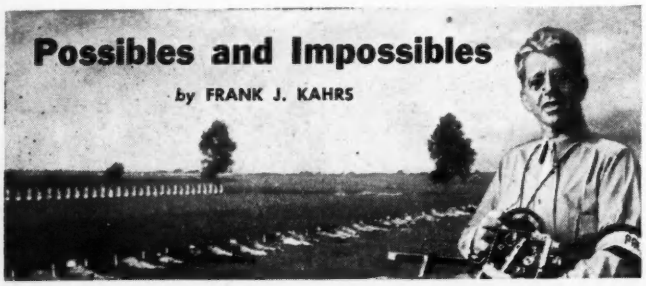
**A REAL single-shot .22 Cal. Pistol designed and made exclusively for target shooters. The gun—with patented trigger action that is improving the scores of expert and novice alike. Place your order through your dealer.**

**Varsity Mfg. Co.** 135 Union Street Springfield, Mass.

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

# Rifle

VOL. 11, NO. 8 BRIDGEPORT, CONN. SEPT



## Possibles and Impossibles

by FRANK J. KAHRS

I learn on excellent authority (through my good friend Chief Bull Pickerel at his listening post in a remote Seminole village on the edge of Lake Okeechobee, near the west coast of Florida) that plans are under way for a revival on a grand scale, the first week of next March on the old St. Petersburg range, of the National Mid-Winter Rifle Matches. Now, after you have swallowed that mouthful and you have felt your pulse quicken in anticipation, because your vacation next Winter is now in the planning, rest assured that serious efforts are being made to run off one of the old time Mid-Winters that made this event so popular with snow birds of the North and others who made the annual pilgrimage from the Western, Southwestern, Mid-Western and Eastern states generally.

It is too early to give details. However, don't make any definite plans for your winter vacation until you have looked into this matter of the Mid-Winter Rifle Shoot at St. Pete in early March. The chances are the shoot will run about four days, say Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday with Monday and Tuesday open for practice and shakedown.

It looks as if there will be plenty of prizes and a bang-up program, which will include some of the good old 200-yard stuff that seems to have disappeared out of our small bore life as quickly as it came in, and for no good reason whatever. Some say it takes too long and it costs too much. Well, what of it? We would rather shoot 20 shots at 200 yards with small bore .22 than any other range we know of, and, likewise, give us the good old Wimbledon with the .30 caliber or the .300 Magnum and a good telescope and we can still have a lot of fun.

The most popular thing the NRA could do would be to put on some 200-yard shooting at Perry. There is one thing about 200-yard shooting, however, that puts it in the .30 caliber classification, and that is once you start your score for record, you don't have any chance to fire any more sighters when you reach the middle of your string and you are undecided whether to crank 'er over or put on some more elevation. When you fire that first shot for a record at 200 yards, you are on your own until you have fired the 20th shot, and that makes a real match. I never did like sighting a bull's eye in the same time I am shooting a record score.

It might be interesting to hear what some others think about this.

* * *

I was looking over a report the other day from some of my good friends in Portland, Oregon, who operate the Postal Gallery Team Matches of the Oregon State Rifle& Pistol Association. I find there are no less than 41 teams entered representing many rifle clubs from all parts of the state, including one junior team of 17 and 18 year olds and two teams of juniors under 16 years. These are four position matches.

Scores for the five man teams run pretty high especially among the teams in the Expert class. The top men on the teams in this class run from a low of 373 to a high of 389. It appears that 389 is pretty darn good shooting. I notice that some of the high scores are made by men I've seen at Camp Perry.

The main point about this blurb is that this Postal League shooting arouses a great deal of interest during the indoor season in Oregon and they have wisely separated the League into several classes—Expert, Sharpshooter, Marksman, First Class, and just plain Marksman. There are over 200 individual marksmen composing these 41 teams and that the classification is right is evidenced by the fact that you don't find very many of the Sharpshooter class boys up in the 380's. As a matter of fact, I only found three among the Sharpshooters. The winning team had a total of 1535; the runner-up, 1526.

# 1947 CHA
# "HOTTES"

## REMINGTON "TARGETMASTER" FAVORITE AT CAMP PERRY PISTOL MATCHES

The record achievements of Targetmaster ammunition at Camp Perry this year have made it a bigger favorite among pistol shooters than ever before.

This popularity is based on the extreme accuracy and dependability of Remington match ammunition. Top-notch pistol shooters know that their ability to score consistently tight groups is equaled by the perfection of Remington T getmaster.

Back of these target reco stands the ballistics labo tories of Remington. Here ammunition lots must rugged tests for accuracy uniformity . . . and com with extremely rigid specifi tions for weights and measu ments. Then and only t will this ammunition be clared "ready for shooters."

Palma, Kleanbore, Targetma Rangemaster are Reg. U.S. Pat. by Remington Arms Company, Bridgeport 2, Conn.

## IT ALWAYS HAPPENS TO ME . . . .

Remington News

T, CONNE , SEPTEMBER, 1947

First Class Reading Matter for Rifle Shooters

**WEATHER:**
**"SIZZLING" COMPETITION AT CAMP PERRY**

# IPIONSHIP MATCHES
# S" IN PERRY HISTORY

## DON'T SHOOT IN THE DARK FOR NEW RIFLE

**CHOOSE YOUR MATCH RIFLE THE WAY THE MASTERS DO**

You'll be doing it the right way if you follow the masters' method of selecting a match rifle.

Besides looking for mechanical perfection, they make certain that their new rifle fits them in every way. The stock should be the right length for easy handling and steady holding. The grip must be comfortable for the hand so that no undue strain or pressure affects fingers or wrist.

Of prime importance, the trigger mechanism has

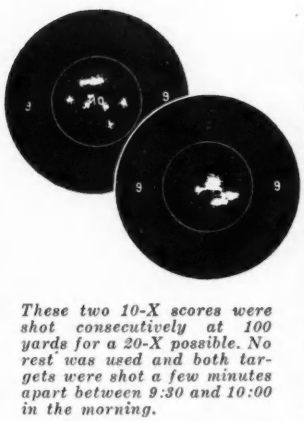
to be absolutely perfect. One reason Masters favor the Remington Model 37 is because its trigger gives matchless performance! Called a "miracle" trigger, this mechanism gives a smooth, crisp pull, lightning-fast let-off, yet without perceptible movement and with no backlash.

For shooting both iron sight and telescope sight matches, nothing aids sighting accuracy as much as a single sighting plane. And the Model 37 has it! This means that in any position, with any type sights, your cheek will nestle comfortably against the same precise spot on the comb.

Final test of any rifle, of course, is match shooting. Here the Model 37 Rangemaster is the acknowledged leader.

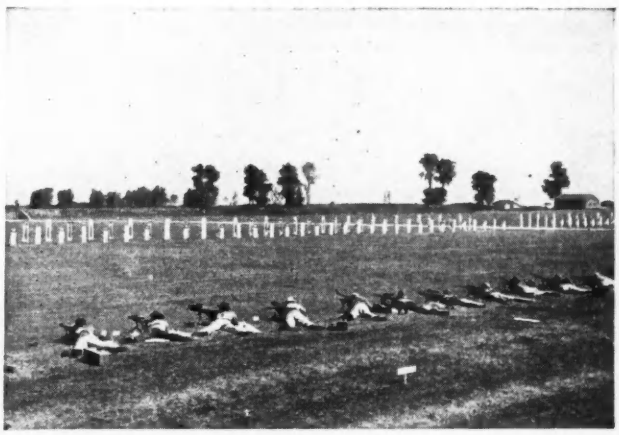
## CONSECUTIVE 10-X SCORES SHOW PERFECT CENTERING

A 20-X possible is no score to be sneezed at. But notice, too, how the groupings are so tightly centered.



*These two 10-X scores were shot consecutively at 100 yards for a 20-X possible. No rest was used and both targets were shot a few minutes apart between 9:30 and 10:00 in the morning.*

The shooter who punched out these two targets was using a Model 37 Rangemaster . . . and the ammunition was Palma Kleanbore.



## KEENEST COMPETITION EVER AMONG CHAMPION SHOOTERS

The greatest championship meet ever held . . . the keenest competition in the history of pistol and rifle shooting . . . the biggest marksman's homecoming since the war . . . a real shooter's holiday—that was Camp Perry during the 1947 national championship matches.

More new shooters than ever turned out to swell the ranks of the veteran rifle and pistol marksmen. The old timers were back again, too. Familiar faces, recalling cherished memories of shooting matches that have made history.

Commercial Row was booming again with more guns, ammunition and shooting equipment than we've seen in nearly six years. And the bulletin board in front of the Remington shack, with the results of the late matches posted, was a favorite spot along "the Row."

The high scores were evidence of some fine holding and squeezing. Evidence, too, that Remington Model 37s and "Palma Kleanbore" or "Police Targetmaster" ammunition were "hot."

The Remington Model 37 is truly the match rifle of champions. Rifle marksmen and handgun shooters alike praise Remington match rifle and pistol ammunition. They know they can depend on its uniform accuracy when the heat is on.

A fitting climax to smallbores' biggest and best season.

## SHORT-SIGHTED SHOOTERS KILL LONG DISTANCE CALLS

You think it's stretching a point pretty far to say that innocent field shooting sometimes interrupts telephone service. Yet, during 1946, two out of every three service interruptions were caused by bullets, according to one of the major telephone and telegraph companies.

The trouble, apparently, is caused by shooters unthinkingly shooting at birds perched on wires and plinking at glass insulators.

Shooting at telephone wire is exceedingly dangerous business. There is always the likelihood of interrupting telephone and telegraph communications which carry radio programs and important messages for the press, plus the constant flood of long distance personal and business calls. But there is also the more immediate danger of bullets glancing and ricocheting.

Might bring this topic up at your next meeting.

# DOPE BAG

**Conducted by Major General J. S. Hatcher**

**Edwards Brown, Jr., A. H. Barr, J. L. Murphy, J. S. Rose**

**Cases for .35 W.C.F. . Home Made Barrel Vise . .22 Rimfire Trajectory . Custom Gunsmithing Service . Magnum in Obsolete Army Revolvers . Practical Stock Finish Sight Height for Mauser . Improved Boreskope . .30-'06 Definition . .30-'06 Gas Check Load . Dram Equivalent . Bullet Point Protector . .300 Savage in 7.7 mm. Jap Rebarrelling a Krag . Trade Dope . Book Reviews**

## CASES FOR THE .35 W. C. F.

I have a new Model 1895 Winchester Lever-Action rifle in .35 W. C. F. caliber. While it is an old rifle, it has been packed away in grease for twenty-five years. It has a nickel-steel barrel.

I have recently acquired complete loading tools for this caliber, but I am having trouble getting empty cases, or any ammunition for that matter.

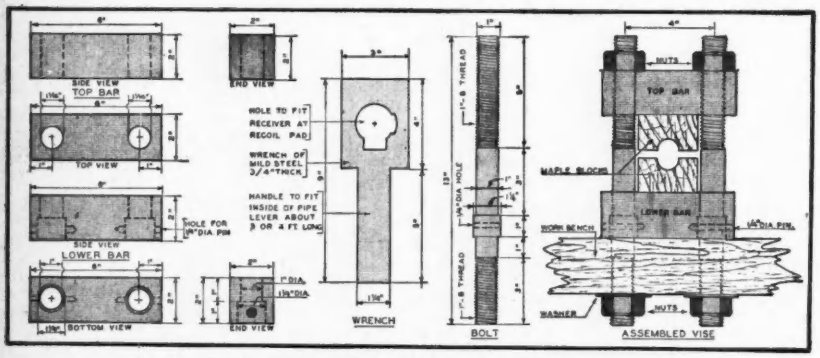
I would like to know if these cases are available, or will they be available, and where? Also, are there any other caliber cases available that could be resized or necked down or fire formed for this rifle?—WARREN W. PLETCHER, Needles, Calif.

**Answer:** As the .35 Winchester cartridge is no longer made it is going to be quite a problem to obtain cases for your rifle. This is especially true since the .405 Winchester, which has the same body diameter and could be necked down to fit the .35, is also one of the discontinued numbers.

The nearest thing available is the .30-40 Krag. While it is slightly undersize, being somewhat smaller in diameter and a bit shorter, it might possibly work with light or moderate loads.—A. H. B.

## HOME MADE BARREL VISE

It seems that sooner or later an amateur gunsmith needs a barrel vise; so I would like to pass along a drawing (below) of my vise to fellow members. All that is required to make this vise is access to a screw-cutting lathe and a metal scrap pile.




**Working drawing of a barrel vise which can be made from scrap metal**

The two metal bars which form the top and bottom jaws can be bored in a lathe by being held in a four-jaw chuck, from which one of the jaws has been removed. The screws are made of 1¼ inch diameter cold rolled stock turned to one inch in diameter, except for the portion in the center which forms a shoulder which bears against the bottom jaw. The four nuts came from the town hardware store.

Make maple blocks to fit the curve of the barrel, put rosin on them, and tighten down on the top nuts with an 18-inch wrench; then this vise will perform about as well as the average barrel vise available on the market. It is sometimes necessary to use a good sized hammer on the wrench to loosen the barrel.

I think the drawing is self explanatory, but I might add that the barrel vise must be bolted to something stronger than the average work bench. The first time I removed the barrel from an Enfield, I lifted one end of the bench off the floor and pulled it loose from the wall.—W. ARCHIBALD, Berkeley, California.

## .22 RIMFIRE TRAJECTORY

Being "public-liability" minded, I wonder if you have any information as to whether there is a "critical angle of elevation" for .22 cal. high-velocity Long-Rifle ammunition, above which one may be sure a standard 40 grain bullet will do no damage on its way down from the peak of its trajectory?—ROBERT B. MAXWELL, Des Moines, Iowa.

**Answer:** There is little doubt in my mind that a .22 rimfire projectile loses power to injure a human, except possibly in the eye, after it has lost the energy imparted by the propellent.

The results of maximum-range tests conducted by the Technical Division at Camp Perry, Ohio, last year, indicate that standard-velocity .22 caliber Long Rifle bullets still carry considerable forward momentum after 1100 yards of travel from a rifle elevated 12 degrees above the horizontal. Sufficient range space was lacking to carry these tests to the maximum range of any conventional rim-fire ammunition. However, the projectiles from Shorts were observed to strike in a manner that indicated their maximum range to be around 1100 yards. The strikes were observed by sound and sight on the surface of a placid lake. As the projectiles approached their maximum range, the impacts changed from audible and visible splashes to slightly audible and rarely observed dimples on the water's surface. The indications of this test were that angles of elevation between 27 and possibly 30 degrees above the horizontal will produce the maximum range with standard rim-fire loads.

It is necessary to include a warning that these results are incomplete. The reason has been the inability to find a suitable testing site for a complete study of maximum ranges and danger zones.

It is our belief that .22 cal. rim-fire projectiles fired at angles of elevations of more than 30 degrees may be treated simply as freely falling bodies, when they return to the same level from which they were fired.

Just the same, I do not think that a squirrel hunter or other rifleman can feel safe in firing his weapon indiscriminately even though it is elevated over 30 degrees above the horizontal.—J. S. R.

## CUSTOM GUNSMITHING SERVICE

The firm of Brown & Edgar, 10320 Stagg Street, Roscoe 3, California, has written us about a relatively new barrel maker by the name of Joe Pfeifer who has spent considerable time trying to find the best barrel steel to give long life with some of the present day high velocity loads. He has taken a tip from the manufacturers of alloy steel designed to withstand enormous heat, such as the Turbo jet airplane motor, and has adopted for his use a very special type of high chromium steel. In his experiments he has fired enough shots to get the barrel very hot, after which he has fired five shots at a target, then cooled the barrel in ice water and fired five more shots into the same group. The ten shots measured 1⅛ inches, fired at 100 yards from a bench rest.

Brown & Edgar state that in order to provide a complete service to rifle owners they are prepared to pre-turn the stainless steel barrels made by Pfeifer. They also state that they are equipped to handle barrel turning, breeching, chambering, single shot alterations, and rifle assembly work. Associated with them are May and Highfield who are set up for welding, bolt alterations, Enfield action conversions, polishing, and blueing. Working with this group is Monty Kennedy who does stock work. A letter or postcard addressed to Brown & Edgar will bring a price list of the work done by this firm and those associated with them.

These new chromium barrels are relatively expensive ($28.50 per blank), but if the increase in barrel life works out as claimed this will offset the additional cost—A. H. B.

## MAGNUM IN OBSOLETE ARMY REVOLVERS

I find that the .357 Magnum cartridge will chamber in the early Army revolvers, issue of 1896 and 1898, which were chambered for the .38 Long Colt cartridge.

To shoot a Magnum cartridge in one of these old obsolete guns would naturally be bad medicine. They will not even shoot the .38 Special cartridge accurately as the bore is too large; so large, that a bullet size .358 will fall down the bore.

I know that you are well aware of this fact but the chaps that bought these old guns during the war, thinking they were

getting Specials, are very sad indeed. Here's hoping they don't find out that a hot .357 Magnum will fit in the cylinder and try to shoot it. Oh Brother!—HENRY D. REIB, JR., Los Angeles, California.

**Answer:** Before the adoption of the Model 1911 .45 caliber automatic pistol, the standard side arms of the Army and Navy were Colt and Smith & Wesson revolvers chambered for the .38 Long Colt cartridge. Some of the earlier models of these guns have the cylinder bored straight through so that a long cartridge like the Special or the Magnum will go in. However most of them have a step or shoulder in the cylinder so that the .38 Special or the Magnum will not go in and the only cartridge which can be used is the .38 Long Colt.

As these old guns were made 40 to 50 years ago, before the advent of modern heat-treated high-tensile strength cylinders, it is obviously very dangerous to shoot a Magnum cartridge in one of them

Just to save someone from writing in and telling us about it, I will mention that in 1909 the Colt's New Service Revolver in .45 caliber was also adopted as an Army standard under the name of The Revolver Caliber .45 1909. Relatively few of these, however were issued and the old .38 still remained as the service side arm up until the adoption of the .45 Model 1911.—J. S. H.

## A PRACTICAL STOCK FINISH

The appearance of "Another Rapid Stock Finish" by Henry Flannery (Dope Bag, July) and "Stock Refinishing" by Alfred Giertz (Dope Bag, May) in THE RIFLEMAN prompts me to write you of the finish I have used on stocks and, also, on furniture:

Sand the wood until smooth, apply a good coat of boiled linseed oil, and let dry.

Then rub a soft cloth or clean waste over a good paste wax until a quantity is on the cloth and pour enough shellac on the cloth to moisten it.

Rub the treated cloth or waste briskly over the surface, using plenty of elbow grease. Repeat this as often as is necessary to fill the grain. Finish off by rubbing with the palm of your hand.

A very good finish is obtained by the above method which is dry and ready for use after being rubbed down by hand.—DONALD W. SCHULZ, Santa Barbara, Calif.

## SIGHT HEIGHT FOR MAUSER

I have a Model 98 Mauser that I brought back from Germany, and I am trying to convert it into a sporter.

It is a new rifle that I obtained from a factory in Germany. I used it last fall for deer hunting "as is," after having the headspace checked and two rounds of test ammunition fired in it. As the stock differs from most of the later-issue Army Mausers in being fine walnut and having no bayonet stud on the fore-end, I have cut it down to sporting length and refinished it with an oil finish and put on a rubber recoil pad. The barrel and receiver did not have a fine finish, but showed tool marks from the turning operation so I stripped the rifle, put it on a lathe and gave it a "mirror" finish with fine emery paper. It is now being reblued. As I did not like the rear sight for hunting I have removed the sight leaf and the mount, which was but a sleeve sweated on to the barrel.

While in the Army I was armed with the M1 Garand and learned to like the peep sight very much. So I am thinking of mounting a 70-MH Redfield micrometer sight on the rifle, but I am stuck as to the type and height of front sight I will need. If possible I would like to use the ramp that is already on the rifle, which I believe is 5/16 inch in height (above the band). All I can seem to find in Stoeger's No. 38 catalog on size of the dovetail is that a certain sight will fit any rifle with a standard-sized slot. Now, what is standard slot? The knife-blade front sight that is now on the rifle seems to be a tapered dovetail miking .201 at one end and .211 at the other. What do you recommend that I get?

I have also had trouble with soft-nose ammunition jamming in the throat of the chamber when a round is racked too fast. Is there any remedy for this?—LEONARD KENTFIELD, St. Johns, Michigan.

**Answer:** You will not run into any trouble getting the right height of front sight for your Mauser. It so happens that the sight height is now correct so you can get another of the same height, even though the receiver sight has been added. For a front sight to fit that very small dovetail slot in the Mauser ramp you would have to get a special, such as the Lyman No. 28.

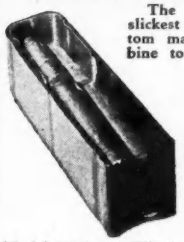
The standard or so-called standard dovetail slot is approximately 3/8 inch wide which is much wider than the small dovetail used on the Mauser rifle.

Blunt-nose bullets will sometimes jam in the Mauser action. A number of remedies mentioned recently in the Dope Bag for the M1917 Enfield will work equally well in the Mauser rifle.—A. H. B.

## IMPROVED BORESKOPE

Those very handy Universal Boreskopes mentioned some months ago have been improved and all orders are being filled with the latest product. The improvement consists of the use of optically ground glass instead of the original plastic material used as a reflector. The handy container remains unchanged. We can personally recommend this bore checking device. It is a valuable gadget to have available. The manufacturers of it are Wolff & Mundy, of Upper Darby, Pa.—A. H. B.


**BULLET POINT PROTECTOR**



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### .30-'06 DEFINITION

Can you tell me what the '06 on a .30-'06 cartridge stands for? Is it .06 inch oversize a .30 caliber? What is a .30 U. S. caliber?—JOHN SHINKEVICH, Kewaunee, Illinois.

**Answer:** The '06 appearing in the name .30-'06 stands for the year 1906. The .30 indicates a .30 caliber cartridge. This means, therefore, that the rifle is chambered for the .30 caliber cartridge which was adopted in 1906.

The first .30 caliber service cartridge was the one used in the Krag-Jorgenson rifles adopted in 1892 and used until 1903. This was called the .30-40 Krag, as it was .30 caliber and the original loading was 40 grains of powder. It is also called the .30 U. S. Army.

To differentiate it from the old .30 U. S. Army cartridge, the .30-'06 is sometimes called the .30 U. S. Government cartridge.—J. S. H.

### .30-'06 GAS CHECK LOAD

The following load is giving me excellent results in my 22-inch-barrel Enfield: No. 120 Winchester primer; 25 grains of No. 4198 powder; Bond gas-check bullet No. 311890, sized to .311 inch.

Shooting with this load at 100 yards, rest, and using a 29-S scope I can put three shots out of five in the X-ring. Someone who really can shoot ought to be able to keep in the X-ring without any trouble.

The No. 311890 is a Loverin-design bullet and I believe 25 grains No. 4198 is one of his recommended loads. I estimate the velocity of this load at 2200 foot-seconds.—FRANK F. REYNOLDS, Alexandria, Va.

### DRAM EQUIVALENT

Can you tell me how to convert the drams in which black-powder shotgun loads are usually quoted into the more familiar grains? I presume the solution is an easy matter, but it has thus far escaped me. I found a table which indicated that a dram was equivalent to 27 grains, plus a small fraction, and felt I had solved the problem until I noted another table showing a dram to be equal to 60 grains. To confuse the situation further, I located two powder flasks with adjustable charges and set both for 2 dram loads. The resulting charges varied by a bit more than 100 per cent; on weighing them I found one came to 26 grains and the other to 56 grains.—W. J. OEDING, Oakland, California.

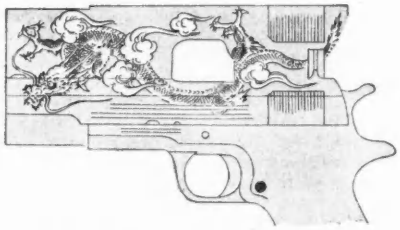
**Answer:** A dram is a unit of weight equivalent to a little over 27 grains.

In the days of black powder, the dram was the standard unit of measure for black-powder loads in shotgun shells. This powder was loaded by measurement rather than by weight. This was accomplished by making a loading cup to hold the amount of powder weighing the required number of drams. Then the powder was scooped up and loaded, as stated above, by measure.

Later on, when smokeless powder came into use, the earlier varieties had such characteristics that they could also be loaded by bulk so that a dram measure (not weight) of the powder would give about the same effect as a dram measure of black powder.

Powders of this type were called bulk smokeless powders. Later on the trend was to use more concentrated smokeless powders,

called dense powders, which could not be loaded by bulk. A dram measure of dense powder, scooped up and placed in a shotgun shell, would give far more pressure than a dram measure of either black or bulk smokeless. Consequently these powders are loaded by weight just the same as modern rifle and pistol powders are. In order to give the shooter some idea as to the strength of the load he is getting, shotgun loads are still labeled as so many drams equivalent. Thus it might happen that 24 grains of a certain smokeless powder might give the equivalent pressure and velocity of three drams of black powder. This 24-grain load would therefore be called a "3-dram equivalent load", or simply a "3-dram load," whereas it has nothing to do with drams either by bulk or weight. It is simply a charge that will give the same force as the old 3-dram load would. You will see that there is no way in which you can weigh or measure the powder and be sure that you have a dram equivalent unless you know the characteristics of the powder and how many grains of powder would give the same pressure as the dram of black powder.—J. S. H.



**This plane projection of a .45 caliber Colt pistol slide shows the dragon engraved on Lt. Col. Calvin Goddard's sidearm by Keikoku, Noguchi, a prominent Japanese engraver. Keikoku, who works in Tokyo and normally does his engraving upon silver objects, found this job a tough one, breaking points of several gravers on it.**

## BULLET POINT PROTECTOR

Floyd F. Held, Culdesac, Idaho, can supply a U-shaped metal stamping, which fits in the forward end of a bolt-action rifle magazine, to prevent the points of loaded cartridges being damaged. The sample we tried in a Model 70 Winchester worked perfectly well with any 7 mm. bullets. The instructions for fitting the Bullet Point Protector are complete and, when followed, the fitting is a simple job.—A. H. B.

## .300 SAVAGE IN 7.7 MM. JAP

Up until the last issue of the RIFLEMAN I had been under the impression that rechambering meant remodeling the chamber to fit the new caliber *perfectly*. But on page 52 of the July issue you mention a 7.7 mm. rechambered for a .30-'06 which had a split case due to improper fit of cartridge in chamber. Consequently I have held off converting my rifle to a .300 Savage because I certainly do not wish to fire an untrustworthy gun.

Can you give me any further help on this? —H. D. Heysteb, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**Answer:** Converting the 7.7 mm. (.303) Jap rifle to the .300 Savage is quite a different proposition from merely rechambering it for the .30-'06.

In this latter operation the reamer is simply run into the Jap chamber far enough to per-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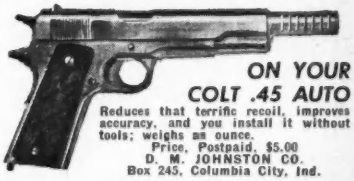

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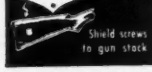

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mit the .30-'06 case to go all the way in. The rear end of the Jap chamber is not altered in any way and it is usually quite a loose fit on the .30-'06 case at the rear end. This causes a severe tension in the case when it is fired because the case is not supported by the walls of the chamber.

On the other hand, in converting the rifle to the .300 Savage, the barrel is cut off and rethreaded and the gun is then rechambered to an exact fit on the .300 Savage case. This makes a very satisfactory gun and from all the reports we have these conversions are working out quite well.—J.S.H.

## REBARRELLING A KRAG

I am considering rebarrelling a Krag action to a .22 Zipper or a .220 Swift but am uncertain if this action is strong enough for the Swift load. It is in exceptionally good condition, practically new. Would you advise the Swift or is the action too light? Also which would be better, a 14 or 16-inch twist? —J. J. Milhoan, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

**Answer:** The Krag rifle should not be used for cartridges giving pressures over 42,000 lbs. per square inch, except very small cartridges such as the .22 Lovell.

The maximum pressure of the factory loaded .220 Swift is around 55,000 lbs. per square inch, and this is too much for safety in the Krag.

On the other hand the loading pressure of the .22 Zipper is around 40,000 lbs. per square inch and this would make a satisfactory cartridge for your Krag rebarrelling job. The twist for the Zipper is customarily one turn in 14 inches.—E.B.

## LOAD FOR THE .270

I wish to load full-power loads for the .270 Winchester using the 100 grain bullet. Kindly give me your recommendations for such a load, kind of powder, weight of charge, and velocity attained.—CARL E. ERNST, Rochester, N. Y.

**Answer:** Some years ago I used 55 grains du Pont No. 4320 with 95 and 100 grain Western Tool & Copper Works bullets in the .270. That was an accurate, flat-shooting load, but I do not know what the velocity of it is. To my knowledge it has not been chronographed. Using HiVel No. 2 the maximum recommended load for the 95 grain W.T.&C.W. bullet was 48.8 grains. This gave 3340 f.s. velocity.—A. H. B.

## PISTOL CASES

A few months ago we were receiving many letters asking about pistol carrying cases. It seemed that they were just not to be had. Now several producers have come to the fore with fine-looking cases which should add to the dignity of the handgun target shooters.

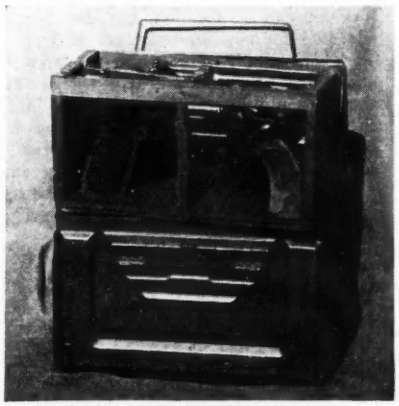
The prices look a little steep. But don't forget that it costs a lot more today to make these things than before the war, and don't forget that the producer and dealer, as well as the customer, would like to see those prices lower.

We are getting together all of the cases now being advertised, so we can look them over. We will write a Dope Bag review of them as soon as possible. This review will appear in THE RIFLEMAN before you have to buy one next spring.

Cases now on the market include those

sold by Wisler Western Targets, Martin (Moose) Taylor, Star Sporting Goods Company, and Lou Nole Associates. Several shooters have been showing up here with cases made by Richard A. Zehl. The Buchanan case made before the war is no longer available.

Of course if you are handy with a few simple tools you can make a case at a minimum of cost. Bob Sinclaire of West Palm Beach, Florida, has one which he made out of a metallic .50 caliber M2 ammunition box. This case is pretty small but Sinclaire has

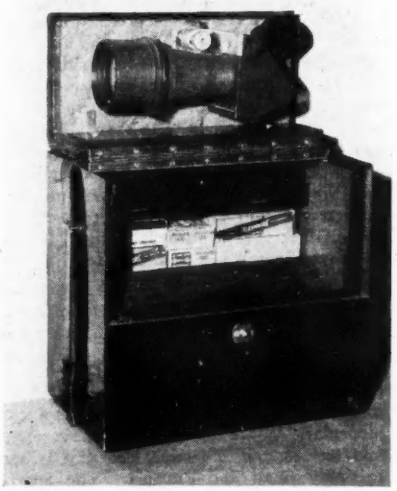


**Pistol kit made by Bob Sinclaire out of a .50 caliber ammunition box**

worked it out so that he gets practically everything he needs, except his spotting scope, in that small space. The .50 cal. box he used is war surplus and has been on sale throughout the country. It is rugged and water tight.

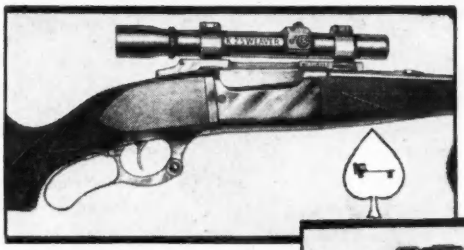
If you have the ability and patience, and want to make something really nice, take a lead from George Mustaparta, of Kingston, New York. He made the case pictured below out of ¾-inch mahogany veneer from an old piano. This case is 14 inches long, 13 inches high, and 9 inches wide. Four boxes of .38 or .45 ammo and four of .22's fit into a compartment, and there are two compartments for cleaning accessories or gadgets.

The scope you see mounted on the top in ready position for spotting is one-half of a 10 power German flack scope.—E. B.



**George Mustaparta made this pistol kit with mahogany veneer**


# For good shooting use
## WILLIAMS FINE MOUNTS



Here's the Williams Quick-Convertible, bridge type Scope Mount with "the peep sight that's an ace in the hole." Remove scope and attach self-centering sight, all without the use of tools. There's nothing like it anywhere. Quick-Convertible, complete with peep sight — $17.50.

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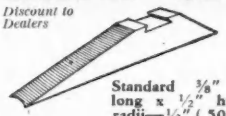
Discount to Dealers



$2.25 Postpaid

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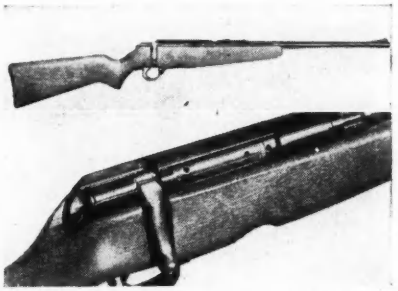
## NEW STEVENS BOLT ACTION RIFLE

The J. Stevens Arms Company, Division of the Savage Arms Corporation, has designed a new light-weight, bolt action hunting rifle. It is the Model No. 325 Stevens. The one we have been using is chambered for the popular .30-30 cartridge. With a 21 inch, medium-weight, tapered barrel, the weight of this gun is 6¾ pounds. The overall length of it is only 39½ inches.

The action and barrel of this new rifle have been designed for economical manufacture. There is but one locking lug at the forward end of the bolt, but this is quite adequate for cartridges in the .30-30 class. The bolt handle serves also for a safety lug. The box type magazine holds three shots in addition to one cartridge in the chamber. The flat, Mannlicher-type bolt handle should probably be checkered or scored to insure a more secure grip on it



**Stevens Arms Company's new Model 325**

when operating the bolt. A convenient, out of the way, safety has been designed to operate on the right hand side of the receiver, somewhat in the manner of the safety on the M1917 Enfield. When in the safe position the bolt is locked also.

With the bead front and open rear sights, the distance between sights is only 16¾ inches. Even with the short sight radius and the open sights we finally got the accuracy down to less than five inches for 10 shots at 100 yards. All but one shot went into less than 3 ⅜ inches. A scope will be mounted to determine just how accurate this new rifle will be. At 50 yards where sighting was a little more convenient the groups with the factory sights was less than two inches.

One novel feature of this new rifle which aids manufacture and helps to keep the cost down is a fluted barrel locking ring which holds an independent recoil shoulder unit against the forward end of the receiver. This design makes headspacing, after assembly, a very simple job. The barrel is turned into the receiver until headspacing is correct, then the retainer ring is turned up tight, locking the barrel, recoil lug unit, and receiver into a solid unit.—A.H.B.

## NEW SARD "SPORTSMAN" BINOCULAR

The Kollsman Instrument Division of Square D Company has recently entered the market with a new and rather unique 6 x 20 binocular. While this binocular is six power and has 20 mm. objective lenses, it is surprisingly small and compact. The Sportsman comes with a detachable nylon neck cord which is adjustable for length, a small

pigskin leather carrying case, and an attractive velvet lined case of blond wood.

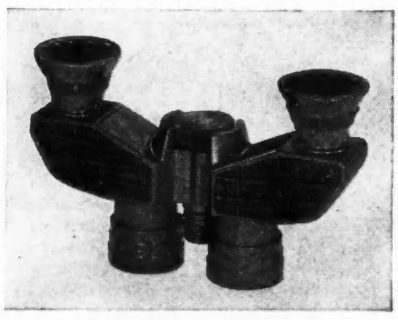
We have been using a Sportsman recently and we not only find the optics excellent but the binocular very pleasing. One of the most appealing things about this little binocular is the fact that it can be carried in the open breast pocket of the suit coat or shirt, ready for quick use but leaving the possessor unencumbered.

The Sportsman body is of light magnesium construction but apparently it is very rugged. The finish is in brown enamel trimmed with brown, baby alligator skin.

We have used the binocular for continuous extended periods of time without eye fatigue or headaches. This is a good indication that the alignment of the lenses is precise. At a recent pistol match, spotting was easy at 25 yards although there was some difficulty in spotting .22 caliber holes at 50 yards. The image is unusually bright.

The Leman or Sprenger prism, rather than two porro prisms, is used in the Sportsman. This type of prism has been incorporated in some of the German Hensoldt binoculars and in Army and Navy gunsights in this country. To the best of our knowledge this prism has never been used in binoculars manufactured in this country before. The Leman prism, because of the angle of the roof, is expensive to make but easy to mount rigidly in the binocular since it is made from one piece of glass. It thus has permanent optical alignment.

In order to gain compactness, the Kollsman Instrument Company has sacrificed one thing, the stereoscopic effect. The objective lenses are very close together, thus having the effect of bringing the eyes closer together rather than further apart as is the case in the conventional design. The relative position of two objects, however, depends on several factors in addition to stereoscopic vision. We



Sard "Sportsman" Binocular

have not noticed that the lessening of the stereoscopic effect is any disadvantage.

The Sportsman is adjustable for interpupillary distance and has central focusing with a separate eye-setting. The manufacturer states that all optical surfaces are coated. It has a true field of view of 8⅓ degrees which provides a circular scene of approximately 43.2 feet at 100 yards. When the interpupillary distance is adjusted to maximum, the binocular is flat and convenient for the pocket. When so adjusted, the dimensions of the binocular are 4.40 x 2.62 x 1.12 inches.

The Sportsman retails for $165.00 plus tax. —E.B.


# Bob Brownell ❖ The Gunsmith's Mart

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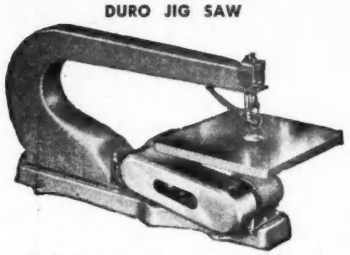

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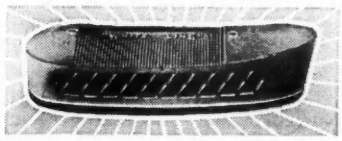

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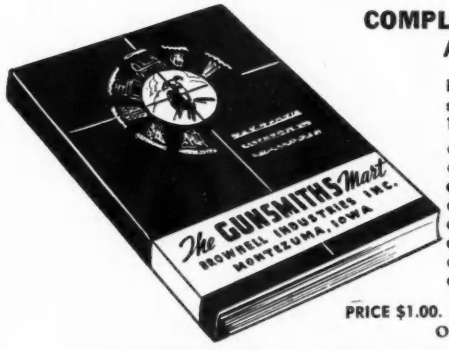


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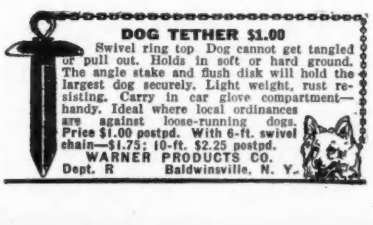

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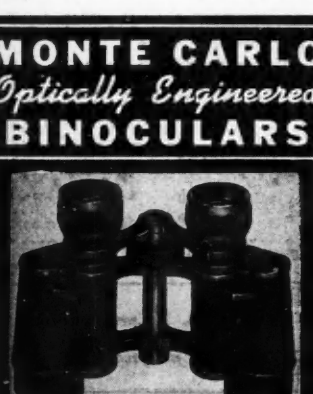

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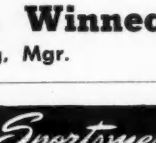

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## GUNSMITH TRADE DOPE

**J. W. McPhillips,** 285 Mastick Ave., San Bruno, Calif., and an associate, Larry Flannery, have finally designed a cartridge case which they believe is the best yet for the 6.5 mm. Japanese rifle. It is a wildcat, being a reformed and shortened .30-'06 case, but apparently the performance is very good. McPhillips can furnish reloads or cases and Larry Flannery, Rouge Sportsmen, Eagle Point, Oregon, does the rechambering job.

☆ ☆ ☆

**David G. Poyer,** 2520 W. Koenig, Grand Island, Nebraska, has been recommended by Leslie Lindahl of Central City, Nebraska, as a competent gunsmith. He does barrel fitting, rechambering, and other phases of gunsmithing. Lindahl states that any work turned out by Mr. Poyer is hard to match for neatness and precision fitting.

☆ ☆ ☆

**L. H. Brown,** custom gunsmith, has moved from Dowagiac, Michigan, to Route 2B, Kalispell, Montana. The necessity of building a new shop will cause some delay in filling customers' orders, but Brown expected to take up his work again about July 1, 1947. He is a good source for a complete Bull Pup rifle.

☆ ☆ ☆

**Bengt G. Bjalme,** Port Matilda, Penna., has established a special barreling shop, in addition to his regular gunsmithing service on most types of gun work. Mr. Bjalme states that he can furnish the finest of recommendations on the work he does.

☆ ☆ ☆

**C. L. Russell,** Box 2963, Cleveland 16, Ohio, is no longer associated with the firm of Russell & Meeker Co. He is back in his own shop, doing complete rifle building with those famous "Red" Elliott reamers and Ackley barrels. Russell specializes in restocking, bluing, rebarreling, and sight fitting.

☆ ☆ ☆

**George's Custom Buckle and Gun Works,** 1820 21st Street, Boulder, Colo., can furnish hand-made belt buckles in nickel, silver, phosphor bronze, 10-karat gold, or sterling silver. These buckles, a sample of which we have seen, can be engraved or made on special order to anyone's ideas. When a belt is needed it will be made by the S. D. Myres Saddle Co., El Paso, Texas. The belt buckle we have seen is a rather attractive job.

Another service rendered by G. A. Pennapacker is engraving on firearms actions and barrels.

☆ ☆ ☆

**Wisler Western Targets** of 543 Clay Street, San Francisco 11, California, are offering for sale an excellent line of rifle cases. A sample sent to the NRA is of high-grade black elk leather, and the lining is of a heavy bright-red wool cloth. A heavy-duty zipper provides easy access to the rifle. Guns the size of Winchester 52's and 70's with scopes may be carried in the Wisler case by hand or shoulder strap.

# BOOK REVIEWS

## HATCHER'S NOTEBOOK

By Major General Julian S. Hatcher, Retired

Julian S. Hatcher needs no introduction to the shooters of this country, nor does his latest book need anything to recommend it to them other than his name as author. If I were to place a value on the book, I would say that the first chapter of nine pages, "Brief History of the Springfield Rifle, Caliber .30 Model 1903", would be worth the purchase price. But, if the purchaser is still skeptical, then the second chapter, "Brief History of the Enfield, Caliber .30, Model of 1917", should convince him of the book's value. However, if he is still in doubt as to the value of this book, the third chapter, "A Brief History of the .30-'06, the .30 M1 and the .30 M2 Cartridges", should prove utterly convincing.

It is valuable, too, as a reference for gunsmiths who need such basic information as the strength of military actions, receiver steels, and heat treatments. It also deals with the kinds of metal used in the fabrication of the Springfield, Garand, Enfield, and Krag rifles.

It gives the answers for those shooters who are interested in head space and how it might affect the shooting of the rifle, and also what to do about it; or the relationship between barrel length and velocity. And, if you wish to know the equivalents of American and foreign calibers, this book has the answer.

Collectors of firearms or ammunition will be particularly interested in the book because it deals with the history of such highly secret inventions of World War I as the Pedersen device.

The discussion of the military semiautomatic rifle and machine gun mechanisms is excellent. The text is lucid and the illustrations are particularly clear. Many of them have never before been printed. The chapters on experiments with barrel obstructions, the theory of recoil, and on gunpowder are invaluable.

Under the heading "Random Notes on Various Subjects," General Hatcher provides a gold mine of information for shooters, ballisticians, gunsmiths and technical writers. Running down the line he covers the following subjects at shorter or greater length:

A section entitled "Men Behind the Guns" discussed briefly some of the outstanding gun designers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Four sections on National and International Match ammunition tabulate hitherto scattered facts. Cartridge dimensions, nomenclature of cartridge defects, headstamps, American and foreign caliber equivalents, and other valuable cartridge data are given. Ballisticians and those who like to study and use formulas will find many unique tabulations: Muzzle velocity *vs.* position of cartridge when loading; effect of variations in powder temperature on muzzle velocity; velocity *vs.* barrel length; tables of remaining velocities, energies and form factors for ammunition; ballistic data; rule of computing ordinates of the trajectory; formula for


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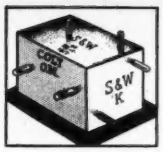


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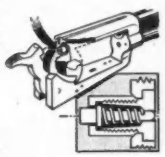

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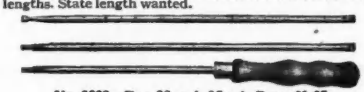

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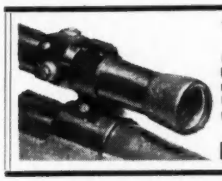

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| .250-3000 Savage | .375 Magnum | 30-30 CCC. |
| 25 Remington | 38-40 | 30-40 CCC. |
| .25-35 | 38-55 | 30-06 CCC. |
| .256 Jap | .401 Win. | .300 Magnum CCC. |
| .257 Roberts | .405 | .348 CCC. |
| 6.5 mm. | 44-40 | .375 Magnum CCC. |
| .270 Winchester | 45-70 | .375-06 CCC. |
| 7 mm. | 45-90 | |
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wind deflection; relation between muzzle velocity and instrumental velocity; mils *vs.* minutes; comparison of angles of departure of .30 M1 ammunition; bullet penetration in various mediums; and other tables, which, taken alone, are more than worth the price of the book.

It is my humble opinion that as a book of reference, Hatcher's Notebook is invaluable.

Briefly, the book should be in the library of every man interested in small arms rifles and ammunition, if for no other reason than that it answers so many questions.

I heartily recommend this book not only to every member of the National Rifle Association but also to every member of every rifle club.—FRANK J. KAHRS.

*(Military Service Publishing Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. An NRA Library Book. 487 pages, indexed; $5.00. Available through the NRA Book Service.)*

## WILDCAT CARTRIDGES

BY RICHARD F. SIMMONS

Up until a few months ago there was not a single book available devoted to new, so-called "wildcat" cartridges. However, this book is the third recently published work describing many of the new cartridge developments.

*Wildcat Cartridges* deals entirely with cartridges in various calibers which are more or less in the development stage. All of them must be handloaded and many of the cases must be reformed from the cases of some standard cartridge.

Many of our more popular commercial cartridges have resulted from the experimental work of individual "gun bugs." Typical examples are the .22 Hi-Power, .250 Savage, .257 Roberts and many others. We cannot, therefore, overlook the painstaking work of the experimenter whose creation is dubbed the *wildcat.*

This book shows that Simmons has unquestionably expended a lot of time and labor in compiling the data on the various specialized cartridges. Much of it has evidently been obtained either from previously published material or direct from gunsmiths interested in experimental work.

In the book there are plenty of good illustrations of the various wildcat cartridges, ranging from the .17 to the .446 caliber. Many of the cartridges described and illustrated are the results of individual experiments. Others are already obsolete. Some practical loading data is given along with probable velocity figures. However, each wildcat has its own individual pecularities, and requires some experimental test work to find the load that best combines accuracy and safety.

In general this book covers most of the converted or wildcat cartridges. There are not many exact case or chamber dimensions from which close measurements may be obtained but a general description of the various cartridges is included.

With a good index the author has also included many credit lines as to where some of the material for the book was obtained. The book is almost a necessity for anyone wanting to keep up with various wildcat developments.—A. H. B.

*(Published by William Morrow & Company. 333 pages, indexed, $5.00. Available through NRA Book Service.)*

# THE ARMS CHEST

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**1. Rate:** 20 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00. All advertisements must be accompanied by remittance, made payable to "National Rifle Association"—1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C.

**2. Closing Date:** All advertisements must be received by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: the 1st of September for the October issue. Ads *received* after the 1st of September *and not later than the 1st of October* will be inserted in the November issue.)

**3. Who May Advertise:** Any individual or firm whose advertisements and methods of doing business meet our requirements may advertise their goods or services in the ARMS CHEST.

**4. All Orders Subject to These Conditions:** WE reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

**5. Transactions Based on Good Faith:** ARMS CHEST transactions are based on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation, disregard of usual business ethics or the attempt to circumvent these general requirements, when brought to our attention, will result in refusal of further advertising and might result in disbarment from the NRA in the case of members.

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**7. How to Count Numerals, Etc.:** Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters likewise are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith; H. B., meaning heavy barrel; HP., meaning high-power). Hyphenated words are counted as two words (example: 20-gauge, pearl-handled no-slip).

**8. Responsibility for Illegible Copy:** Type or print advertisements plainly, as we can not be responsible for errors due to illegible writing.

**9. Firearms for Sale or Trade Must Be Properly Described:** The *condition* of every gun (including essential parts) advertised for sale or trade, *must* be specified according to *NRA standards*, as follows: PERFECT—meaning factory condition; EXCELLENT—meaning new condition, implying negligible amount of use; VERY GOOD—meaning practically new condition; implying little use, with no appreciable bore wear and only minor surface scratches or wear; GOOD—meaning moderate use with some finish worn off, only moderate bore wear, with no pits and nothing worse than a little roughness in the bore; FAIR—meaning no parts missing necessary to use of gun, reasonable wear inside and out, nothing worse than minor pits in steel or stock, gun sufficiently accurate for hunting. POOR—meaning marred appearance and pitted or badly worn bore.

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**Complete copy instructions for November must reach us positively not later than October 1st.**

***See above for full instructions.***

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NATIONAL BLU-BLAK ASSOCIATION

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**ATTENTION! ALL GUN AND SPORTS SHOPS!**

World's Finest Gun Oil . . . **Micronoil Gun-Lube** . . . with unbeatable record in gun protection . . . **now ready in 50¢ size.** 12 dropper bottles to carton.

Include carton BORE-KLEEN (35¢ seller) . . . the new aid to better gun care.

". . . at end of test . . . **91 days** . . . sample showed only small, shallow rust spots. Most thin preservatives break down in 10 days to two weeks. Even some of semi-solid greases are **no better than this Micronoil Gun-Lube.**"

—A. H. BARR, *Tech. Div. NRA.*

**GUNSMITHS!** Certificates of Membership in NATIONAL **BLU-BLAK** ASSOCIATION based on **ability** plus size of community. Small towns rate ONE only. Let no grass grow getting your order on file.

**This remarkable process will blue more guns, perfectly, than you ever imagined:**

**BLU-BLAK** to make 4½ gals. solution.....$15.00

**BLU-BLAK** to make approx. 10 gals. solution 28.00

*PREKLEEN,* to make to 20 gals. cleaner **1.00**

**"RI-FO"** . . . Rust Inhibiting Finishing Oil (formerly Rio), 1 gal., $3.50; 5 gals. **15.00**

*BUFFING COMPOUNDS* . . . greaseless . . . finest quality. 150/coarse; 240/medium; 450/fine; 550/extra fine. 2¼-lb. tubes, each $1. Dozen lots @ each ..... **.90**

*FELT BUFFING WHEELS* . . . white . . . best made.

| 6" x 1" x ½" | | 8" x 1" x ½" | |
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| Soft | $3.00 | Soft | $4.50 |
| Medium | 4.00 | Medium | 6.00 |
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*MUSLIN BUFFING WHEELS* . . . Finest quality . . 20 ply . . . concentric stitched at ½ inch spacing.

6" dia. X ½" bore, .....ea. 60¢, 12 @ 50¢

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*THERMOMETER* . . . with nickel-silver support ..... **$1.50**

*RUBBER GLOVES* . . . finest quality, seamlet, 14" long, 10½ & 11 & 12 bargain at ..... **1.25**

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*FACE SHIELDS* . . . clear, heavy plastic . . . gives full protection face and eyes. Are your eyes worth .....? **2.25**

*PeeDeeQ* . . . Removes rust & old-blue . . . fast; rebluing accelerator for case-hardened parts. Don't miss this. 1 pint makes 3 to 5 pints..... **1.00**

*SUPERBA STOCK FINISH* . . . NEW . . . different . . . saves time & labor . . . you'll love it..... Pt. **3.00**

*YOURS* can be the gun-bluing shop of your community . . . if you **ACT NOW!** To delay is risky . . . if you are too late, don't blame me.

*YES* . . . **BLU-BLAK** Shops **Are the** *Busy* **Shops.**

**The Best Gunshops in America are joining the "Circle of BLU-BLAK Enthusiasts."**

*H. TOM COLLORD, Pres.*

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**Box 3985-AR Detroit 27, Mich.**

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### for speed action jobs until further notice

**All jobs now on hand will be finished before closing for the hunting season.**

**Will spend winter months doing experimental work, and equipping shop to do rebarrel jobs in popular calibers.**

**Plenty of scopes, mounts and iron sights for prompt shipment:—**

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| Weaver K2.5, coated, cross hair | $37.50 |
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| Clear Sight Scope Caps, pair | 2.95 |
| Weaver U mounts | 6.25 |
| Stith mount for 99 Savage—K Scope | 15.00 |
| Stith Q.E.D. for Model 70—K Scope | 17.50 |
| King-Pike Q.E.D. for K Scopes | 17.50 |
| Redfield Jr. for K Scope | 14.75 |
| Pachmayr pads $3.25, installed | 6.00 |

**To my customers goes my sincere thanks for the past year's business.**

**My humble apologies for the many letters which I could find neither time nor help to answer.**

**Send No More Rifles Until Further Notice.**

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**Phone 390J1 Rt. 1—Box 95**

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## SPEEDLOCK

for **MAUSER RIFLES** (only)

Gives 25% decrease in firing pin stroke. KERR'S speedlock reduces stroke from ½" to 3/8". Trigger pull set to original poundage or adjusted to 4-4½ lbs. Barrel and action assembly must be shipped. 1-week service. $10 installed, plus shipping charges.

**Also bolts expertly checkered, $10.**

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The Best of Everything for the Sportsman

**9582 WILSHIRE BLVD., BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.**

Guns

**Reblued**

**from $5.00 to $10.00**

3-Day Service

**Complete Repair Service**

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**1428 WALNUT Dept. AR KANSAS CITY 6, MO.**

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RIFLE SLINGS, LEATHER, U. S. ARMY, 1¼", used, good condition, $1.00 each. Grimes rifle or shotgun slings, top grain, russet cowhide, adjustable to any shotgun or rifle, furnished in ⅞" $1.50, 1¼" widths, $1.95 each, brand new. Rifle sling swivels, quick detachable, 1¼" only, $1.25 per pair. Used Colt Automatic pistol magazines, $1.75 each, good condition. Taylor precision fisherman's barometer, pocket size, $7.50 each. Rifle and shotgun section metal cleaning rods, precision quality, all calibers and gauges, $1.50 each, brushes 25¢ extra. Recoil boot, prewar rubber, U. S. Army slip-on styie, for shotgun or rifle, $1.00 each. Duck and crow calls $1.50 each, Hawk calls $2.00 each, all treated against tone change. Gent's one inch hand carved all leather western belt, tan, all sizes, $1.50 each. Genuine G. I. heavy canvas leggings with brass eyelets, large, medium and small sizes $1.50 per pair. Holster for Luger automatic pistol with 8" barrel, saddle leather, brand new, $5.00 each. Tan leather belt holsters for revolver or automatic pistol, any size, with flap, $3.00, without flap $2.50. Shoulder holsters, all leather $4.95 each. Give barrel length and name of gun for all holsters. Send coin 10¢ for list of sportsmen's supplies available for immediate shipment. Sportsmen's Supplies, 250 West Bayberry Lane, Upper Darby, Penna.

HARD-TO-FIND PARTS AND ACCESSORIES for caplock arms, 45-70 Springfields, etc. New List No. 23 mailed on receipt large addressed envelope. Don't miss our exclusive Lyman double mould casting .36/.44 Conical Colt balls. James Serven, Santa Ana, Calif. tf

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2½ power, approx. 40 ft. field of view at 100 yards. Internal elevation and windage adjustment, eye relief 3 to 5 inches, wt. 7¾ oz., coated lens . . . . . $29.95

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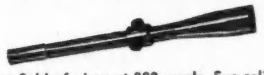

45 foot field of view at 300 yards. Eye relief 2 to 4 inches, length 14½ inches, tube dia. 22 MM. (⅞"), dia. of objective lens 32 MM., wt. 16½ oz., coated lens . . . . . $65.00
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**Installation charge quoted on request**

**CUTTS COMPENSATORS** . . . $18.50
(with choice of any two tubes)
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(installed) . . $14.75
Note: send barrel only

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## RIFLE BARREL BLANKS

Pfeifer barrel blanks are made from a special analysis, electro furnace high flash, high abrasion resistant tool steel, heat treated to a tensile strength of 130,000 PSI. Stress relieved before drilling, Rockwell C hardness 25-29, machinability rating 70. Should give little or no trouble with warpage or distortion under normal machining procedure and will in no way harm or wear chambering equipment to any greater degree than previously used barrel steels. Conclusive tests have shown you can expect 50 to 80% longer barrel life than that delivered by ordnance steels. Blank dimensions 28" long, 1¼" diameter.

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**Price $21.50, F.O.B. Beverly Hills**

**Discount to dealers and gunsmiths**

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Cast of Meehanite. Ideal for hard bullet metals such as Type metal or Kirksite A. Grease reservoir operates under 300 lbs. pressure, enabling user to size many bullets with one pressure setting (approx. 35 bullets of .38 cal.). All dies are hardened, inside surfaces micro-finished . . . . . $17.50

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Available in following calibers: 22, 25, 270, 7 m/m, 30, 8 m/m, 35, 38 Spl., 45 ACP, in two cavity moulds. 3, 5, or 10 cavity moulds on special order subject to short delay.

2 cavity . . $ 8.50 5 cavity . . $18.50
3 cavity . . $10.00 10 cavity . . $40.00

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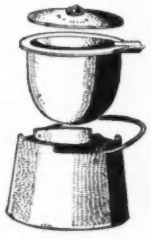

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**3 pc. SET $6.95**
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Adjustable Rifle Model $12.50
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Extra Drum to combine above . . $ 4.00
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Model C single element, 450 unit . $15.00
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Available in following sizes: 108, 111, 115, 116 and 120 . . . per thousand $ 6.30

**4-GUN PISTOL CASE**
Sturdy leatherette covered plywood. Lock and full-length piano hinge. Velvet-lined tray and barrel rest. 2 colors: medium or dark brown. Space for ammunition and 13½" spotting scope . . . . . $30.95

**O'Dell's Scope Mount for pistol cases, $4.50**

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*The Best of Everything for the Sportsman*
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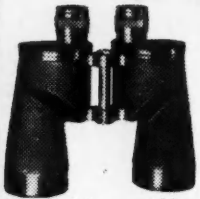
## BAUSCH and LOMB 7x50 NAVY BINOCULARS $110.00



Mfgd. to U. S. Navy Standards! (Alignment guaranteed to .001") Dust proof! Climate proof! Individual eye adjustment. Instant focusing. Ideal for long range hunting, yachting, watching planes, etc. This magnificent 7 power 50 mm. Navy Binocular gives better detail, heightening image contrast. Used in *NEW-LIKE condition!* Complete with carrying case only $110.00 plus 20% Federal tax (*with Coated Optics $125.00 plus tax*).

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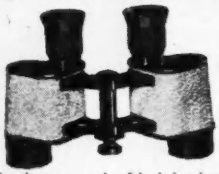

6 power Binoculars made to rigid Army specifications. Used in excellent condition. No scratches on lenses! Sturdily constructed of genuine brass, leather covered. Ideal for hunting, sports, etc. These fine Army Signal Corps glasses come complete with case and straps ready to use. $34.95 plus 20% tax. WHILE THEY LAST.

### *OTHER BINOCULARS* (4 TO 16 POWER!)

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| 8x34 French Monte Carlo. New | 67.00 |
| 8x30 Wollensack. Coated. New | 85.00 |
| 8x30 French Monte Carlo. New | 62.00 |
| 8x30 Carl Zeiss. Used | 85.00 |
| 8x25 French Monte Carlo. New | 57.00 |
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| 7x50 Same as above, but Coated | 110.00 |
| 7x50 Navy. Coated. Used | 115.00 |
| 7x50 German Dienstglass. Used | 120.00 |
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| 6x30 Bausch & Lomb. Used | 37.50 |
| 6x30 Carl Zeiss. Used | 70.00 |
| 6x30 U.S. Army. New. Lightweight Nash | 62.50 |
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| 6x30 Wollensack. Coated. New US Army | 62.50 |
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| 6x30 Navy. Navigation. Coated. Used | 45.00 |
| 6x30 Universal. Navy. Lightweight. Coated. Used | 47.50 |
| 6x30 Universal. Navy. Lightweight. Coated. New | 62.50 |
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Add 20% For Federal Excise Tax. Carrying case and straps included. Supply limited. Give second choice.

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Use for 20 days at our risk and expense. If not fully satisfied, return for full refund of your money. ORDER TODAY! Send $2.00 deposit and we will ship C.O.D. for balance. Cash orders sent postpaid.

**UNITED PRODUCTS CO.**

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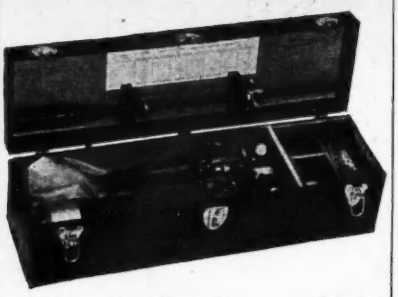
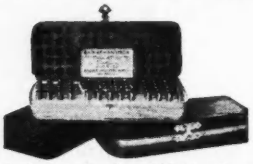
Dept. ARF-409
(Reference Dun & Bradstreet)

## BADGER SHOOTING KIT



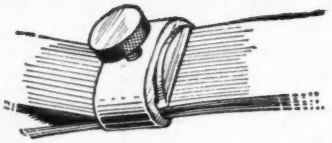
27" Deluxe Kit as illustrated ..... **$12.85**
27" Deluxe Kit with tray .....
(Express collect)

## BADGER HANDY BOX



Holds 50 (.22 l.r.) plus full box in center ..... (Postpaid) **$1.25**

## BADGER SLING KEEPER



Precision machined, nickel plated, "Can't Slip" ..... (Postpaid) **$1.00**

ORDER DIRECT or see your Dealer. Prices subject to change without notice.

"LEW" BULGRIN

Badger SHOOTERS SUPPLY
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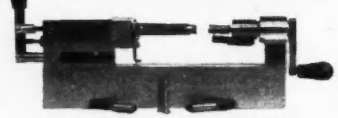

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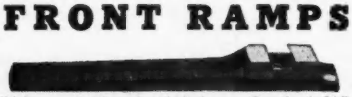

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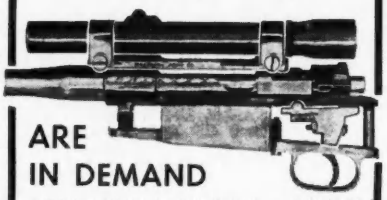

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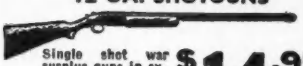

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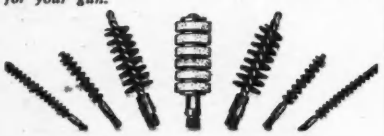

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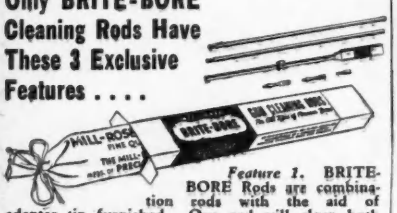


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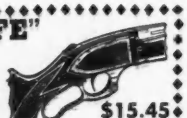

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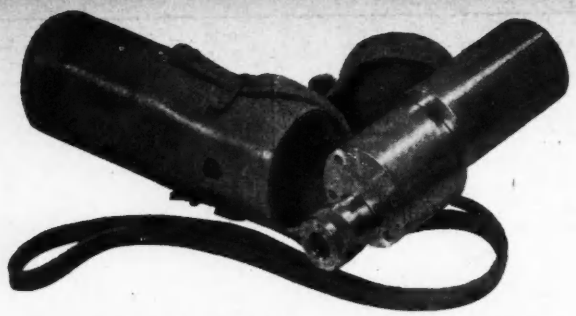

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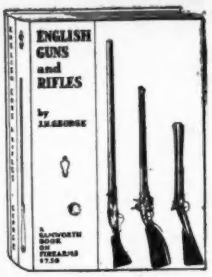


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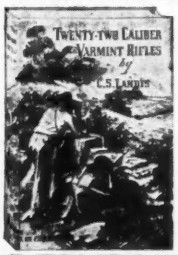


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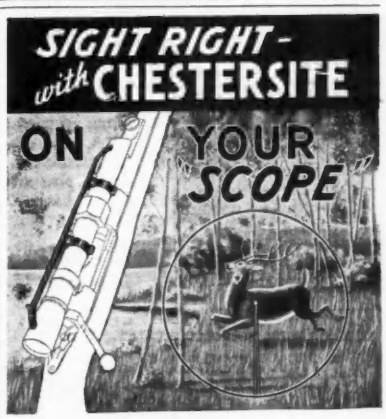


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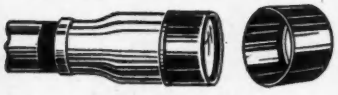

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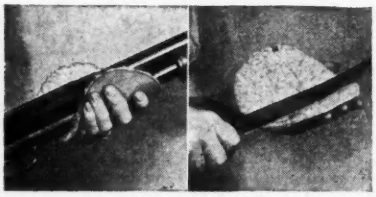

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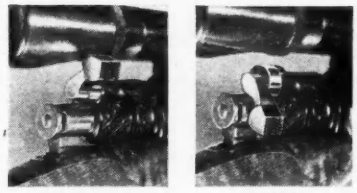

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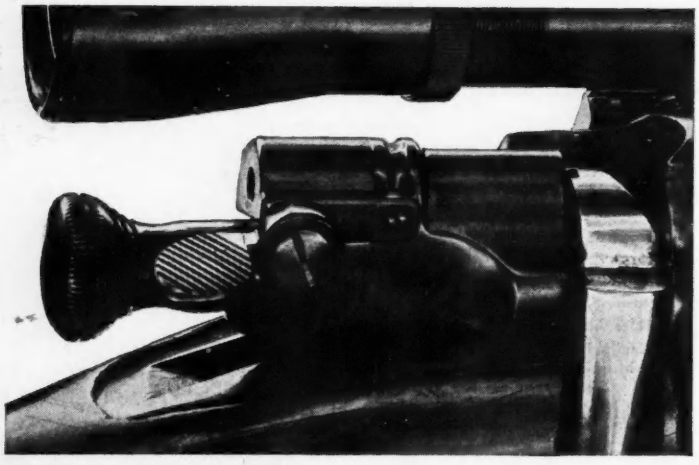

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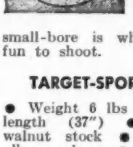

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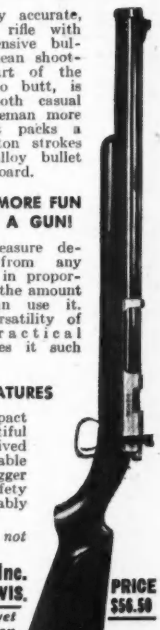

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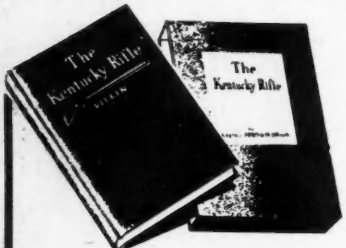


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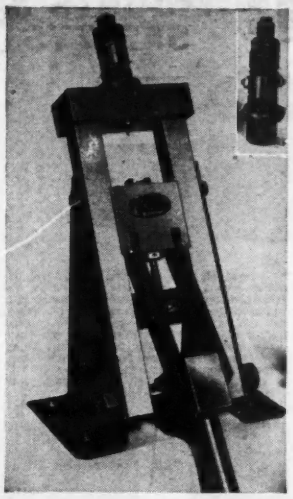

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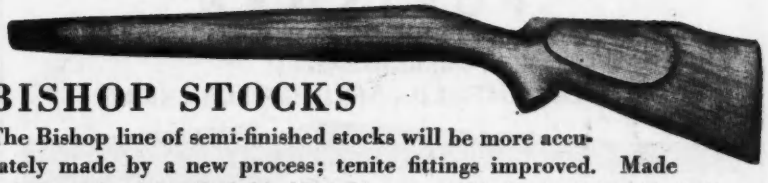

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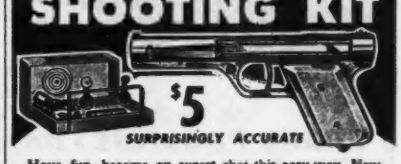


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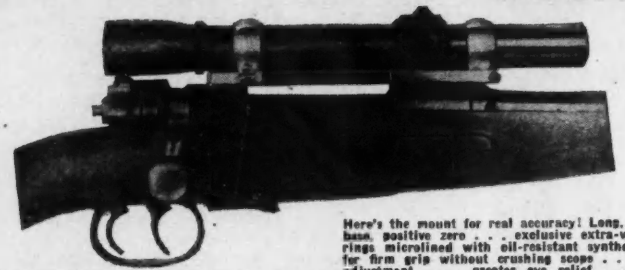

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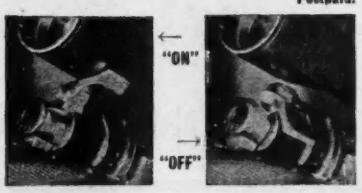


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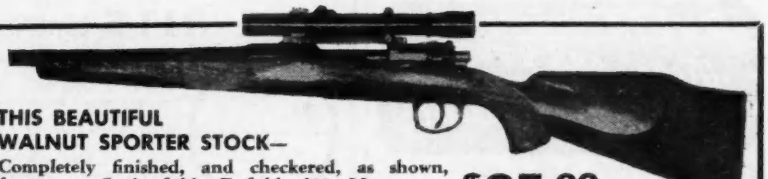

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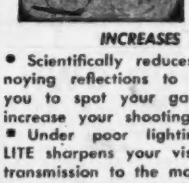

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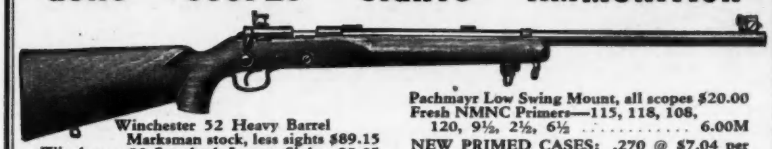

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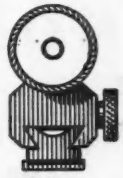

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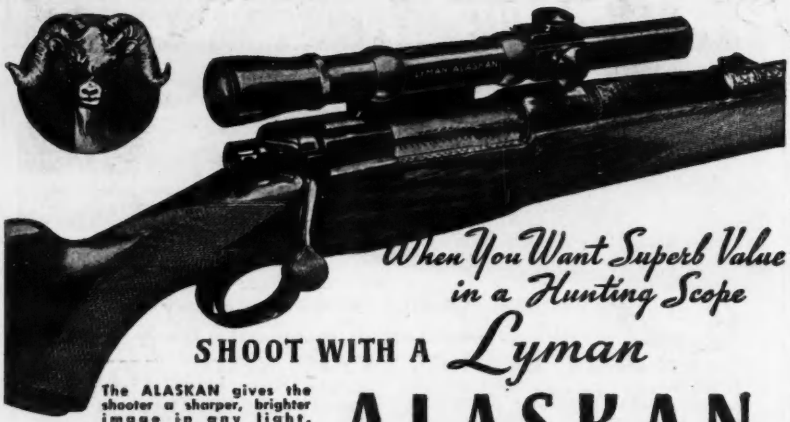

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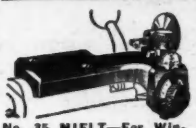

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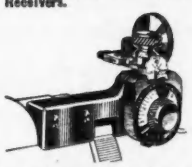

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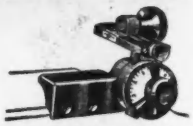

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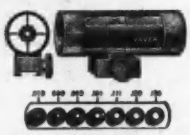

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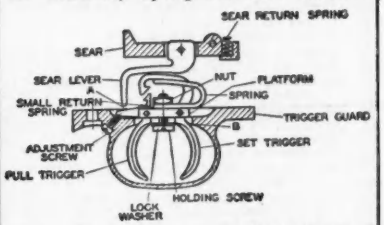


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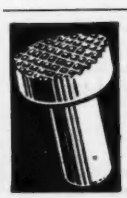

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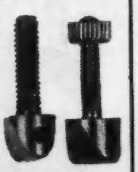

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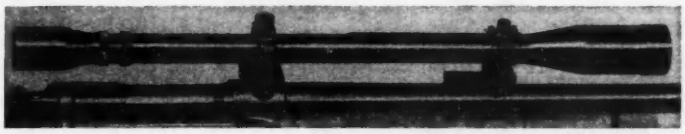

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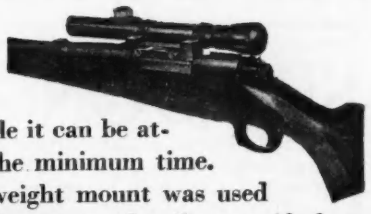

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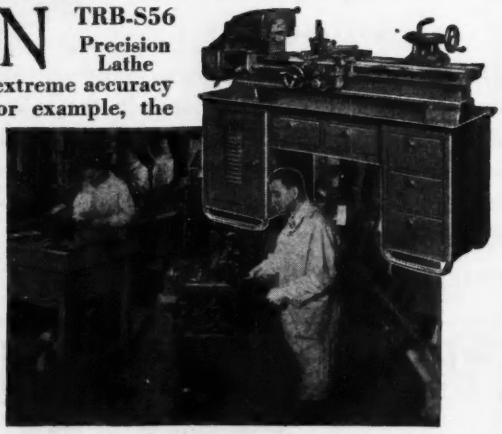

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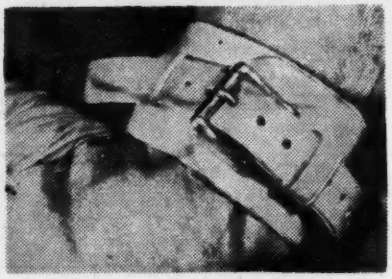

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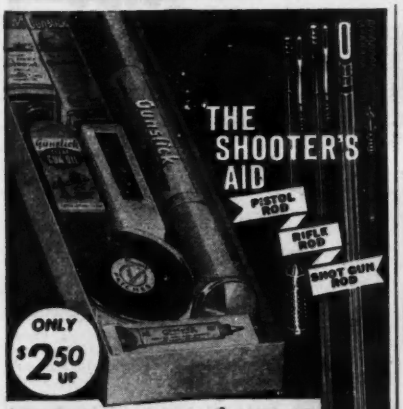


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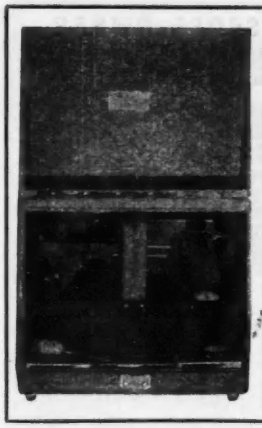

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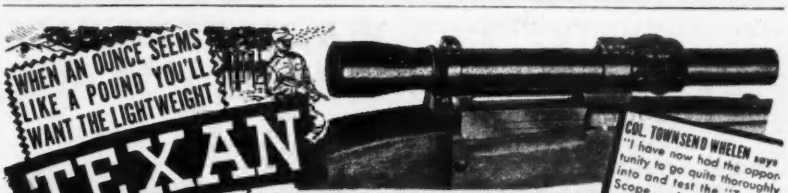


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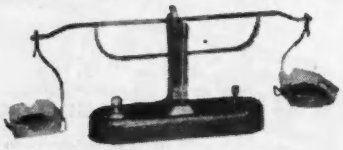

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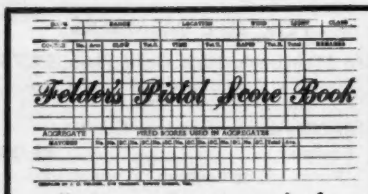


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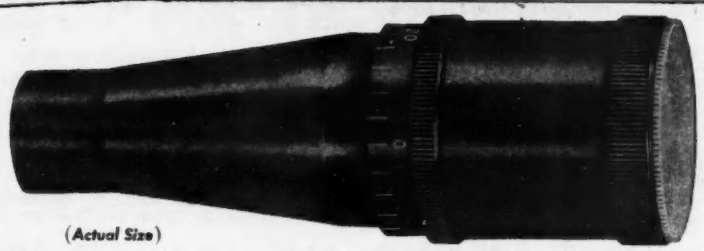

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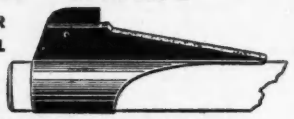

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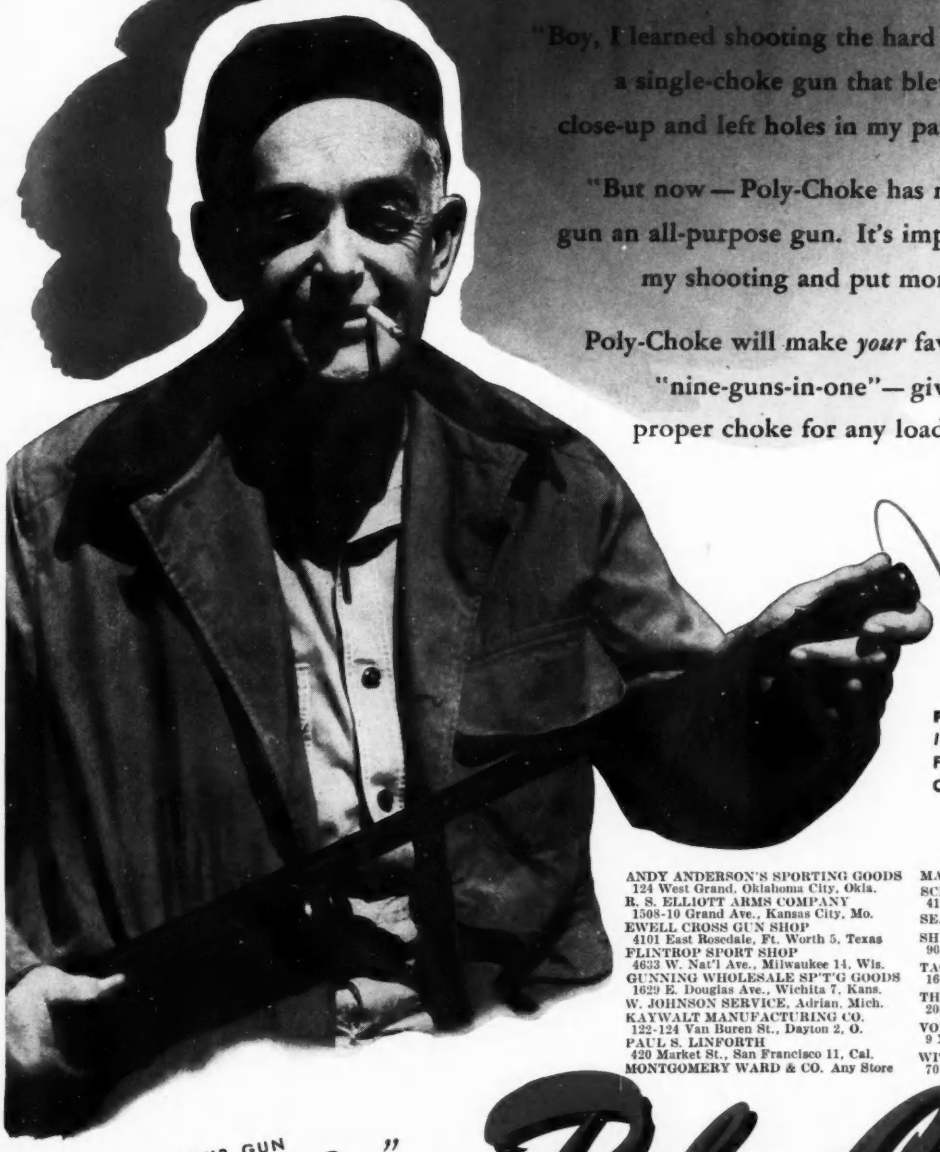

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